Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-91-014
Tuesday
22 January 1991

Daily Report
Latin America

FBIS-LAT-91-014 *22 January 1991*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Foreign Minister on War, International Relations *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 1
Alarcon Urges Movement To Demand UN Meeting *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 1
Official Gives News About Nationals in Iraq *[Havana Radio]* 1
Commentary on Resumed U.S. Aid to El Salvador *[Havana International]* 2
Terms of Trade Agreement With USSR Disclosed *[Madrid EFE]* 3

Barbados

Sandiford Speaks on DLP Leadership, Successes *[CANA]* 4
CANA Profile 4
Profile of NDP Leader 'Richie' Haynes *[CANA]* 5
THE ADVOCATE on War in Persian Gulf *[CANA]* 6

Bermuda

Government Stands 'Four-Square Behind' Allies *[CANA]* 6

Dominican Republic

President Balaguer Speaks on Emergency Situation *[Santo Domingo Radio]* 7

Haiti

Mayor Evans Paul Installed, Aristide Speaks *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 8
Lawyers Refuse To Handle Lafontant Defense *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 8

St. Kitts and Nevis

Simmonds Pledges Nation Support to U.S., Allies *[CANA]* 8

Trinidad and Tobago

Muslim Group Appeals to King Fahd for Peace *[CANA]* 9

MEXICO

Official Warns Against U.S. Trespassing *[NOTIMEX]* 10
Foreign Secretary Comments on Cooperation Program *[NOTIMEX]* 10
Police on Alert To Keep Terrorists Out of U.S. *[NOTIMEX]* 11
Government Vows To Protect Citizens in Gulf *[AFP]* 11
War Protesters Demonstrate at U.S. Embassy *[NOTIMEX]* 11

CENTRAL AMERICA

Belize

Opposition Leader Issues Statement on Gulf War *[CANA]* 12

Costa Rica

Foreign Ministry Condemns Attack on Israel *[San Jose Radio]* 12

El Salvador

FMLN Communique Confirms Atrocity, Trial *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 12
Cristiani Backs Implementation of UN Resolutions *[San Salvador Radio]* 12
Notes Gulf, Personnel Changes *[LA PRENSA GRAFICA 18 Jan]* 13
Economy Minister Assures '3 Month' Fuel Reserve *[San Salvador Radio]* 14
Jesuits Accuse Attorney General of 'Indifference' *[SIETE DIAS 17 Jan]* 14
Peasant Groups Condemn U.S., Persian Gulf War *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 15
Group Protests U.S. Military Aid to Government *[DIARIO LATINO 17 Jan]* 15
ARENA Leader Denies Resumed Aid To Fuel War *[San Salvador Radio]* 15
Army Provides Military Situation Update *[EL MUNDO 15 Jan]* 16
FMLN Statement Points to 1990 Military Gains *[LA REPUBLICA 12 Jan]* 16

Guatemala

'Explosive Device' Said To Damage Radio Station *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 17
Government Orders Fuel Consumption Measures *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 17
URNG Claims Credit for Dynamite Attacks *[SIGLO VEINTIUNO 18 Jan]* 18
Serrano Reiterates Peace Offer to URNG *[PRENSA LIBRE 18 Jan]* 18
Army Announces 'Important' Personnel Changes *[EL GRAFICO 17 Jan]* 18
Rebels Obstruct Oil Transport Since December *[EL GRAFICO 16 Jan]* 18

Honduras

Callejas Voices Support for UN Action in Gulf *[TIEMPO 18 Jan]* 19
French Ambassador Calls Attack 'Political' *[LA TRIBUNA 21 Jan]* 19

Nicaragua

Dreyfus Says Country Supports UN Resolutions *[Managua Radio]* 20
Ministers Hold Joint Press Conference *[Managua Radio]* 20
Possible Fuel Price Adjustments Examined *[Managua Radio]* 22
Government, RN Sign Cooperation Document *[Managua Radio]* 22
Former Contras Reportedly Mobilize in North *[Managua Radio]* 22
Missile Deal Suspects Appeal for Workers' Support *[Managua Radio]* 23
EPS Munitions Dump Explodes Near Punta Huete *[ACAN]* 23
Army Explains Cause *[Managua Radio]* 23

Panama

Endara: Husayn 'Mentally Unbalanced Dictator' *[EL PANAMA AMERICA 18 Jan]* 23
New Group Threatens Attacks Against U.S. Bases *[CRITICA LIBRE 21 Jan]* 24
Responsibility Claimed for U.S. Embassy Attack *[EL PANAMA AMERICA 18 Jan]* 24
Immigration Director on Terrorists, Statistics 24
Passport Control Discussed *[EL SIGLO 18 Jan]* 24
Airport on Red Alert *[EL SIGLO 19 Jan]* 25
Arab-American Group Deplores Attack on Iraq *[LA PRENSA 18 Jan]* 25
Deputy Minister Explains Draft Law to Assembly *[LA PRENSA 16 Jan]* 26
Vice President Ford Comments on Money Laundering *[EL SIGLO 12 Jan]* 26
Weapons, Ammunition Belonging to FDP Seized *[EL PANAMA AMERICA 18 Jan]* 27

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Government Statement Condemns Attack on Israel *[TELAM]* 28
Envoy on 'Tolerant Attitude' *[LA PRENSA 20 Jan]* 28

Menem Belittles Threats, Condemns Iraqi Attacks 28
Says 'World Is at War' *[Buenos Aires Radio]* 28
Views Possible War 'Profit' *[TELAM]* 29
Confers With President Bush *[TELAM]* 29
Views Possibility of Terrorism *[TELAM]* 29
Willing To Visit Syria *[Madrid EFE]* 30
Protesters March on Congress; Rally Near Embassy *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 30
Political Sectors React to Gulf War Developments *[Buenos Aires Radio]* 30
Cavallo Condemns Iraqi Position on POW's *[TELAM]* 30
Security Tightened at Buenos Aires Airport *[Buenos Aires Radio]* 31
Second Plane Sent To Evacuate Citizens in Gulf *[Madrid EFE]* 31
Saudi Ambassador Comments on Gulf Conflict *[TELAM]* 31
Iraqi Ship Said Loading Fuel at YPF Refinery *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 32
Tanker Identified as Kuwaiti *[TELAM]* 32

Bolivia

Various Sectors React to Persian Gulf Conflict *[La Paz Radio]* 32
CNPZ Links With Regional Guerrillas Revealed *[PRESENCIA 10 Jan]* 33
Said Attempting To Regroup *[PRESENCIA 13 Jan]* 33

Brazil

Itamaraty Deems Iraqi Attack on Israel 'Serious' 34
Coalition Split Said Unlikely *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 34
Attack Deplored *[Madrid EFE]* 34
Palestinian Support Group Bombs Mormon Church *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 34
Porto Alegre Synagogue Bombed; No Injuries *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 34
Argentina's Menem Offers Surplus Petroleum *[Brasilia Radio]* 35
Federal Service Fuel Quota Reduced 25 Percent *[Brasilia Radio]* 35
Support for Collor Said Decreasing Slightly *[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 15 Jan]* 35
Collor Meets Governors-Elect; Calls For Support *[Brasilia Radio]* 35
Luiz Wellisch Installed as Finance Secretary *[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 16 Jan]* 35

Chile

Aylwin Concerned Over Possible Effects of War *[Santiago Radio]* 35
Ambassadors to Israel, Saudi Arabia To Return *[Santiago Radio]* 36
Arms Sales to Saudis Reportedly Under Study *[Buenos Aires TELAM]* 36
Deputy Requests Investigation *[Santiago TV]* 36
Minister Views Arms Requests *[Santiago Radio]* 36
False Rocket Threats Against Israeli Facilities *[Madrid EFE]* 37
Communist Party Statement Blames U.S. for War *[Santiago Radio]* 37
Vehicle Restrictions To Save Fuel Announced *[Santiago Radio]* 37
Aylwin Disappointed With Senate Reform Decision *[Santiago Radio]* 37

Colombia

Foreign Minister Holds UN Blameless for War *[Madrid EFE]* 38
Modest Oil Increase To Cover Shortage Possible *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 38
Oil Official: Country Not Affected by Gulf War *[Bogota TV]* 39
Mining Complex Attacked; 3 French Kidnapped *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 39
Guerrillas Set Fire to Oil Well, Tank Truck *[Madrid EFE]* 39
Recent ELN, FARC Guerrilla Actions Reported *[Bogota Radio, etc.]* 39
Attorney General Protests Extraditable's Release *[Bogota TV]* 40

Ecuador

U.S. Consulate in Quito Attacked; No Casualties *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 40

Peru

Embassies in Middle East To Remain Open *[Lima TV]* 40
Shining Path Protests, Burns Bush in Effigy *[Madrid EFE]* 41
National Police Foil Anti-U.S. Terrorist Plan *[TELAM]* 41

Uruguay

Dealer on Helicopter, Weapons Shipments to Iraq *[LA HORA POPULAR 12 Jan]* 41
Details 'Uruguay Connection' *[LA HORA POPULAR 13 Jan]* 42
Iran Plans To Open Embassy in Montevideo *[LA HORA POPULAR 12 Jan]* 43

Venezuela

President Perez Still Seeking End to Gulf War *[Madrid EFE]* 43
Embassy in Baghdad Hit by Allied Forces Bomb *[Madrid EFE]* 43
Iraqi Diplomat Allegedly Charged With Terrorism *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 44
Iraqis Deny Diplomat's Arrest *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 44
Iraqi Ambassador Presented Letter for Husayn *[Madrid EFE]* 44
Molotov Cocktail Thrown at Mormon Church *[Madrid EFE]* 44

Cuba

Foreign Minister on War, International Relations

PA1901030991 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2308 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Havana, 18 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca asserted today that the Persian Gulf war will have "very serious and negative" repercussions for the entire world.

He said that there are no signs that the war will end soon and added that, although petroleum prices have still not increased, they will do so eventually because at least 30 of the countries participating in the conflict are importers of crude oil.

"The consequences are going to be shocking and terrible," the foreign minister added.

At a news conference with foreign correspondents, who are accredited in Mexico and are currently visiting Cuba, Malmierca said that the Cuban Government hopes to improve its commercial relations with the Soviet Union and that the USSR will keep the agreements it has signed with Cuba.

The foreign minister admitted that, after the changes in Eastern Europe, trade relations between Cuba and the countries that were part of the socialist bloc have changed and are currently "almost nonexistent."

The official, who has headed the Cuban Foreign Ministry since 1975, stated that the Cuban Government must be self-critical in its commercial relations with Mexico.

He observed that Mexico was an "honorable exception" as it did not break diplomatic relations with Cuba after the socialist revolution gained power. Malmierca added that both governments are now studying ways to increase their trade and their cooperation in petroleum and sugar.

The Cuban foreign minister reported that conditions for Cuba's return to the OAS do not exist. Cuba was excluded from this organization at the initiative of the United States. He added that relations between Cuba and the United States have been characterized by the United States's hostility. He noted: "We have seen no signs that the U.S. Government has any current interest in improving these relations."

In this respect, Malmierca mentioned his November 1990 meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker when the United Nations was debating Resolution 678, which approved the use of force against Iraq. Baker gave me the U.S. arguments to justify the use of force against the Arab nation and I talked about the consequences of such a measure. Obviously, we did not reach an agreement, the foreign minister stated.

On another matter, Malmierca reported that Cuba is studying changes in its immigration policy that will allow people who are under 45 to leave the country. He reaffirmed, however, "that the policy is being studied." The Cuban official said that the Cubans who will be allowed to leave the island are those who have not committed any crime and who have a visa for the country they wish to go to.

Regarding the fourth congress of the Cuban Communist Party, the foreign minister said that this event will probably be held before the August 1991 Pan-American Games.

Alarcon Urges Movement To Demand UN Meeting

PA1901200091 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1852 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Havana, 19 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Ricardo Alarcon, Cuban ambassador to the United Nations, has said that the Nonaligned Movement should undertake joint actions to demand a meeting of the UN Security Council.

In statements to Cuban television over the telephone, Alarcon indicated that the most worrisome aspect of the crisis is that the highest UN body, the Security Council, "has been paralyzed now that the war has broken out."

The armed conflict in the Persian Gulf, Alarcon stressed, has represented a "devastating blow to the UN's prestige and authority." Prior to convening a meeting of the nonaligned countries in New York, the Cuban representative insisted that the Security Council "has to meet to stop the bloodshed."

Alarcon also pointed out that the world "remains totally impassive while efforts are made to annihilate a country."

The Cuban representative stressed that "we are facing electronic barbarity," the effects of which on the world's economy and ecology are "unpredictable."

That is why, he insisted, the Security Council "must react and fulfill its functions" in favor of the reestablishment of peace in the Persian Gulf. The Cuban representative also said the resistance and protests by the U.S. people against the war "are gaining strength every day."

Official Gives News About Nationals in Iraq

FL1901022691 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Interview with Noemi Benitez de Mendoza, vice president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, by Jose Arteaga during "Exclusive" program—live]

[Text] [Arteaga] Good evening, Noemi Benitez de Mendoza. Noemi, I imagine that any person who has a relative in Iraq, someone who is working there, cooperating, needs information. We would like to know what kind of information have you received about these Cubans who are helping out in public health and other tasks? The "Exclusive" microphones are yours.

[Benitez] Yes, I will be glad to. I will tell you that since the conflict began we have been in touch with our ambassador who has been sending us—through the normal channels we have with all our embassies—information about how our people who are cooperating in Iraq are. I can tell all the people who have relatives there that I received a cable this afternoon—I received the last cable approximately two hours ago—in which our ambassador confirmed that all brigades had been visited and that all Cubans were working at their work sites and that there has been no difficulty at any of the hospitals.

Our people know that the Cubans work in different hospitals; children's, maternity, provincial and national hospitals. They are all at their work places. They are working and have a high morale. I repeat, it was confirmed two hours ago that there has been no problem with any of the comrades.

[Arteaga] Noemi, it would be interesting for the listeners and even the relatives to know how they could learn about their loved ones at a given time. Which channels could they follow at a given time? Here in "Exclusive" and throughout Rebelde's entire programming we have received many telegrams asking us for information. It would be interesting if you could explain which channels they could use to get information about their relatives.

[Benitez] Well, our people who are cooperating in Iraq come from practically all provinces in Cuba. A system was created in which their relatives received information through the municipalities or provinces. All the comrades have been visited. It has been explained that the comrades are fine. It is logical for relatives to be worried. All of us are also worried. All our people are worried.

I would like for the relatives to be confident that they have been kept informed on what is really happening and not what we are imagining. In this case, we do have direct news that they are well. They should be confident that they will be immediately informed of any situation. In spite of this, we are willing to give attention to any comrade, any relative who may want to know something directly from us, through the Economic Technical Assistance Institute, which is our enterprise that deals with internationalists abroad. One has to bear in mind that health workers are part of hospitals and provincial directorates. The Public Health Ministry and health institutions will be pleased to provide information because we are all in touch as a result of the situation we are experiencing.

[Arteaga] We thank Noemi Benitez de Mendoza, vice president of the State Committee of Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation, for her remarks to Rebelde's "Exclusive" program, an outstanding newscast. Before we say good-bye, Noemi has something else to say. We again hand over the microphones to her. She apparently forgot something. Is that not so, Noemi?

[Benitez] No, I did not forget, but I wanted to say something at the end. I would like to say to all the Cuban people that all reports have confirmed the high morale of our internationalist workers who are all over Iraq. The Iraqi people have recognized this humanitarian action made by the comrades from the medical sector. I would like to highlight that among the comrades we have there, we cannot forget that we have 182 women who, together with 25 men, are simply representing what our people are made of during these difficult times Iraq is experiencing.

[Arteaga] Thank you again Noemi. We now continue with Rebelde's "Exclusive."

Commentary on Resumed U.S. Aid to El Salvador

PA2001000391 Havana International Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Jan 91

["Our America" commentary read by Manolo Ortega: "The United States Has Announced the Resumption of Military Aid to the Salvadoran Regime"]

[Text] Certainly, the best thing in the world for the U.S. Government is war. If someone describes this statement as exaggerated, he just has to think about the cruel actions unleashed by the Pentagon and the White House in the Middle East. This is not enough, however, for the strategists of the Republican administration.

Recently, just before President George Bush ordered the beginning of military action against Iraq, he also decided to send a little over $42 million in military aid to El Salvador under the invalid pretext that the guerrillas had violated the conditions imposed by the U.S. Congress for withholding half of the aid assigned to the Salvadoran Government.

As you will remember, toward the end of 1990, the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate decided to withhold the aforementioned amount of money to force, they said, the progress of the investigation into the murder—perpetrated by Salvadoran soldiers—of six Jesuit priests and two women.

The crime was committed as a reprisal against a civilian group before the Salvadoran rebel offensive launched in November 1989. [sentence as heard] After debating the delivery of military aid to the Salvadoran Government, the United States decided to withhold half, that is, a little over $42 million, which it said it will again deliver if the multiple murder is not resolved [as heard] or in the event the guerrillas launch another military offensive.

It is true that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] has not laid down its weapons, as the Salvadoran Armed Forces and the United States have wanted, but it has not launched another offensive similar to that of 1989, which jeopardized the Salvadoran military and the U.S. advisers.

The U.S. President said that the money recently approved will not be delivered to the Salvadoran Government for 60 days in order to contribute toward

attaining a negotiated agreement that will end the armed conflict that started over 10 years ago in El Salvador. These statements, aside from being hypocritical, are a mockery, because the Salvadoran Armed Forces always expect the money to be delivered by the United States and they do not even consider making their position more flexible so as to attain peace.

On the contrary, the Salvadoran Armed Forces have done everything possible to obstruct the investigation of the murder of the Jesuits so as to protect the group of active servicemen who carried out the murder. During all the rounds of negotiations, the FMLN has constantly stressed that the demilitarization of the country [three-second break in reception] U.S. aid to the genocidal Armed Forces will be an indispensable condition for any peace proposal to be viable.

There are none so deaf as those who do not want to hear, however. It has been repeated over and over that as long as Washington continues to give money and arms to the Salvadoran Armed Forces and the regime, peace for the suffering people—who have made their sacrifices, including the 70,000 war dead—will become more and more distant.

Despite all this, as we stated at the beginning, the best thing in the world for the U.S. Government is war.

Terms of Trade Agreement With USSR Disclosed

PA2001221791 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1636 GMT 19 Jan 91

[By Maurcio Vicent]

[Text] Havana, 19 Jan (EFE)—The Soviet Union will supply Cuba with 10 million tons of oil in 1991 and will continue to sell to Cuba, at preferential rates, products such as grain, which are vital for the survival of Fidel Castro's regime.

Soviet Ambassador to Cuba Yuriy Petrov made the announcement during a meeting with foreign newsmen to brief them on the content of the recent Cuba-Soviet trade agreement for 1991, signed on 29 December in Moscow by the foreign trade ministers of both countries.

The agreement establishes a cutback in traditional assistance and the implementation of new formulas to assess and pay the cost of bilateral trade, although it ensures supplies of such important items as oil and grain.

Petrov explained that the new Soviet general foreign trade conditions—which base all commercial operations on international market prices and the exchange rates of freely convertible currency—will also apply to Cuba, although with certain advantages during a three-year transitional period.

As EFE has learned from other Soviet sources, this year the USSR will deliver 8 million tons of crude oil and 2 million tons of petroleum-based products in exchange for 4 million tons of sugar.

This means that for every ton of sugar, Cuba will receive 2.5 tons of oil, whereas in previous years the rate was one ton of sugar for 3.8 tons of oil.

EFE has learned from sources that had access to the signed agreements that the USSR will pay approximately $520 more per ton of sugar than the international market rate, while Cuba will pay approximately $20 per barrel of Soviet oil. In this regard, however, Yuriy Petrov indicated that, as a result of the Persian Gulf Crisis and the expected increase in the price of crude oil over the next weeks, this agreement could be reviewed.

As far as grain is concerned, the diplomat noted that this year the deliveries of grain, flour, and other products will be increased to 1.5 million tons.

The protocol for Cuban-Soviet commercial exchange contains two major blocks of products. First there are the more important products, such as oil and grain, citrus fruit, nickel, and sugar, which are subject to centralized exchange to be handled by the two governments and with regard to which political commitment prevails over commercial interests.

Then, there is the second group, which comprises the rest of the products exchanged, such as machinery. Prices and the means of exchange for these products must directly suit the Cuban and Soviet enterprises, as specific commercial agreements must be signed for each operation.

The commercial agreements establish a three-month period, until 31 March, during which time the traditional exchange formulas between the two countries will still be in force, that is, commercial operations are calculated in rubles and artificial prices are set for certain products. After the aforementioned date, though, payment can only be made in dollars.

According to the cited sources, 1991 is a transitional year during which the advantages and disadvantages of the new commercial formula will be weighed to establish definite formulas that will rule short-term and long-term exchange between the two countries.

Among the highlights of the new arrangement is Cuba's commitment to pay 10 percent of the transportation costs for all merchandise, approximately $30 million, since previously this burden was wholly paid by Soviet enterprise Morflot, and the decision to convert Cuba's debt to the USSR, totalling approximately 15.5 billion rubles, into dollars.

The Soviets stress in the documents that compliance with the terms of the agreement and the timely arrival of the supplies will depend on the development of the internal situation in the USSR, something that could, should it worsen, mean significant problems for Cuba.

Barbados

Sandiford Speaks on DLP Leadership, Successes

FL2101163591 Bridgetown CANA in English 1605 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 21, CANA—Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford, pointing to "more stressful times" ahead for Barbados, on Sunday night said proven and steadfast leadership was required for the island's continued progress. Sandiford, making the final political broadcast for the ruling Democratic Labour Party (DLP) ahead of Tuesday's general elections, said his two rivals for the prime minister's job had previously run away from the challenges of high office.

He was referring to Barbados Labour Party (BLP) leader Henry Forde's 1981 decision to leave the cabinet after five years as attorney-general and foreign minister, and the 1987 resignation of National Democratic Party (NDP) leader Richie Haynes as finance minister in the outgoing DLP administration.

"One of the important aspects of leadership is the ability to cope with stress and pressure," Sandiford said in his half-hour address on radio and television.

"There are two ways of dealing with stress; either you face up to it or you run away from it. I have experienced the full pressures of the prime minister's job. Along with that, there have been many personal attacks and uncomplimentary slurs levelled against me.

He added: "I have never flinched nor faltered.... My opponents are, however, of a different mettle. Both of them have run away from responsibility under stress.... Such behavioural patterns tend to repeat themselves. The times will undoubtedly become more stressfull. How will they stand up? They may run away again."

Both Forde and Haynes, who formed the NDP after quitting the DLP in early 1989, had introduced leadership as an issue in the three-week campaign, saying Sandiford, who has brought a down-to-earth approach to the nation's highest elected office, had demonstrated weak leadership.

"What you have is experience, someone who has been doing the job and doing it well. You do not need fanfare, flamboyance, or bluster. What you need is results. Not someone who will quit on you when the going gets tough....," Sandiford told Barbadians.

Buoyed by recent opinion polls showing the DLP ahead of its two main rivals, Sandiford said a re-elected DLP government would seek to build on its successes of the past four-and-half-years. He noted the island's Gross Domestic Product (GDP)—the total output of goods and services in the economy—had reached a record level in 1989, as well as the per capita income of Barbadians. He also cited records for tourism, employment, construction, tourism earnings, health, education, agriculture, and manufacturing in 1989.

"The quality of life in Barbados has improved," he said.

Sandiford accused opponents of attempting to deceive Barbadians in their criticism of the government's economic management. He said while the opposition was blaming the DLP government for a runaway deficit, they had failed to tell Barbadians that in 1981/82 under the BLP government of the late Tom Adams, the deficit stood at 9.1 percent of GDP.

In contrast, Sandiford said his government had brought down the deficit to 4.6 percent of GDP in 1988/89, followed by a further decline to 2.3 percent in 1989, "a national record for the past 20 years." He also cited a decline in imports as a percentage of GDP between 1980 and 1989 to support the government's contention that its economic management had been sound.

Sandiford accused the opposition of engaging in "scare tactics" which he said had sent harmful signals about Barbados at home and abroad. He referred, as one example, to an allegation by BLP leader Henry Forde that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had recommended a devaluation of the Barbados dollar.

Forde, in making the allegation at a public meeting late last year, had suggested he was reading from an IMF document. The charge was denied by the government, the central bank, and sources close to the IMF in Washington.

"All of us who believe in honesty and integrity in public life have been shocked by this sordid, shabby episode of the false document," Sandiford said. "As voters, we must demonstrate our utter abhorrence at such conduct."

Sandiford repeated that a priority of a re-elected DLP government would be the redistribution of wealth through programmes and policies designed to expand the currently concentrated ownership base in the economy.

"We are the only party which can with any credibility promise economic justice. Indeed, it is only when the Democratic Labour Party holds office that it becomes an agenda item for the population. Who would or can raise it with any credibility in the BLP," he said?

He added: "The aim of the party is to mobilise the will, the resources, and the creativity of the people of Barbados to ensure economic buoyancy and a new social order, based on economic growth and not economic stagnation, economic justice and not economic discrimination, economic opportunity for all, and not economic privilege for some."

CANA Profile

FL2101190591 Bridgetown CANA in English 1737 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 21, CANA—Lloyd Erskine Sandiford is a quiet, unassuming politician who spent most of his 24 years in Barbados politics as a protege of the late prime minister and ruling Democratic

Labour Party (DLP) leader, Errol Barrow. Indeed, it was Barrow's sudden death on June 1, 1987 that catapulted Sandiford, a 53-year-old former teacher, into the prime minister's office and the leadership of the DLP, which is seeking re-election in Tuesday's general election.

"... We have been able to see Sandiford before he assumed leadership and afterwards. Leadership has not made a great difference," wrote NATION newspaper publisher Harold Hoyte. "The high office has not robbed him of his easy approach, his methodical style, nor has it refashioned him into a character we do not recognise."

Sandiford, called "Sandi" by most Barbadians, was born on March 24, 1937 to a working class family residing at Porters, then a sugar plantation village, in the west coast parish of St. James. He still lives there.

He had a brilliant academic career, winning the prestigious Barbados Scholarship in 1956 along with Dr. Richie Haynes, a former ally turned rival who leads the two-year-old opposition National Democratic Party (NDP). At Harrison College, a former leading secondary school for boys which became co-educational a few years ago, Sandiford also excelled in sports, and was captain of the first division cricket team. He later attended the University of the West Indies at Mona, Jamaica between 1957 and 1960, obtaining a Bachelors Degree with Honours in English. He did postgraduate work at the University of Manchester in England, where he received a Masters Degree in Economics.

Sandiford's entered the political arena in September 1966 when he was named personal assistant to then Premier Errol Barrow. A year later, he was named to the Senate and appointed minister of education, a portfolio with which he became synonymous. In 1971, he was elected to the House of Assembly as the representative of the urban St. Michael South constituency, a seat he has held ever since.

When the DLP lost the government in 1976, he was appointed deputy leader of the opposition. On the DLP's return to office in May 1986, Barrow named Sandiford deputy prime minister. Barrow died a year later, and Sandiford took over as prime minister. As prime minister, Sandiford has brought a down-to-earth approach to the nation's highest elected office.

Some Barbadians, accustomed to the flair of previous prime ministers, have interpreted this as a sign of weakness. Others, however, say it's more conducive to democracy, citing an autocratic element in the approaches of previous leaders.

"You have different levels (and).... kinds, (and) styles of leadership," Sandiford told a recent DLP election campaign rally. "Mine is consensus government and that means that I discuss and consult with my colleagues, with the different interests and with the individuals in the country and after I hear the varying points of view, I.... balance them, weigh them, and I come to a conclusion."

Going into Tuesday's elections, polls show most Barbadians prefer Sandiford as prime minister. Sandiford is married with three children. Choral singing is among his hobbies.

Profile of NDP Leader 'Richie' Haynes

FL2101184591 Bridgetown CANA in English 1749 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 21, CANA—One of the candidates who could become prime minister after general elections here Tuesday [22 January] is a medical specialist and former minister of finance, Richard C. Haynes. "Richie" Haynes, as the 54-year-old former Barbados scholar is widely known, is leading a political party to elections for the first time.

His rival political leaders are also novices at election leadership but they lead the two established parties in the country. Haynes leads the National Democratic Party (NDP), formed two years ago after he and three others broke with the ruling Democratic Labour Party (DLP). After an unsuccessful elections debut in 1976, on a DLP ticket, Haynes reversed his political fortunes by winning a seat two years later in a by-election for the St. Michael South Central constituency. Haynes has held the seat since, through two general elections. He elevated his status in 1989 to opposition leader, when his splinter group formed the NDP to become the second largest party in Parliament.

Seen as a wealthy man who switched to driving a Mercedes Benz from a Jaguar, Haynes, who has been denounced as power hungry by opponents, has no clear ideological commitment.

He has said: "We take an eclectic approach. We look to see what has been the best in the socialist system, what has been the best in the capitalist system, and we select those elements which are best for the country."

Opinion polls in the run-up to Tuesday's elections place Haynes and his party well behind the opposing party leaders and their parties. Haynes was still confident two days before polling day: "From the reception which my colleagues and I have been receiving during house to house canvassing and at our public meetings, I am confident that a majority of the electorate has decided to support the National Democratic Party."

Whatever the outcome of the election, Haynes has had a political career with several highpoints, among them a celebrated two-hour rebuttal, as shadow finance minister, to the 1986 Barbados Labour Party (BLP) government budget. When he entered the government and became DLP finance minister, he pursued policies which, while appearing to contradict traditional economic theory, also appeared to be successful. Inheriting a threatening balance of payments position, he increased disposable incomes.

"Barbados's imports actually fell when people had more disposable income during 1986 and 1987 by a fantastic figure.... I think what happens is that if people have enough money available to them and they have confidence in what is going on they tend to make positive decisions as to what they'll do with their money."

Much of the money went into saving and investment for housing, he suggested. His economic terminology is also at times unorthodox. He called the 1988 budget by his successor as finance minister "a backstreet abortion."

THE ADVOCATE on War in Persian Gulf

FL2101193091 Bridgetown CANA in English 1809 GMT 21 Jan 91

[From the press review of THE BARBADOS ADVOCATE]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 21, CANA—Following is the text of the editorial in Monday's [21 January] edition of THE BARBADOS ADVOCATE.

"We are more than a little concerned over the cavalier manner with which some Barbadians are treating the ongoing war in the Gulf. Some are openly voicing unbelievable statements to the effect that the events in the Gulf are too far away to affect us. These people would have us believe that the conflict is akin to a schoolyard fist fight between United States President George Bush and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

They see the hostilities in some gory detail on television and seemingly believe that their very eyes is [as received] like a movie—fiction. The facts say otherwise.

Allied with the conflict is the fear of an outbreak of terrorism. Already, parcel mail, including intransit items, between Barbados and the United States has been suspended as a result of the Persian Gulf situation.

And Barbados Hotel Association president, Gordon Seale, has revealed a seven per cent across the board cancellation rate among visitors to Barbados linked to the war in the Gulf. Jobs in the tourist industry are threatened if this trend continues.

We should also brace ourselves for further increases in oil prices. This will translate into increased costs for fuel and electricity. In turn, we can foresee price increases for a wide range of products, some of which are not luxuries which we can forego.

This war, to borrow from our political leaders on the platforms in the run-up to tomorrow's election, is serious business. That this can be lost on some people presents us with a potentially dangerous scenario.

We do not encourage panic buying and hoarding of items. That would be clearly an irrational reaction. However, we do counsel caution in expenditure in the immediate future. In the prevailing uncertainty, it is wise to err on the side of safety.

Actions of this kind can only come from an appreciation of the devastating impact this war can have on us. We know that no one relishes brooding on the horror of war or its consequences. But those who refuse to face up to reality can find little sympathy when they are eventually consumed by it.

The war in the Gulf is one of our concerns. We ignore it at our own peril. Only ostriches bury their heads in the sand. (end text) [no closing quotation marks as received]

Bermuda

Government Stands 'Four-Square Behind' Allies

FL1901160091 Bridgetown CANA in English 1535 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Hamilton, Bermuda, Jan 19, CANA—Military personnel at Bermuda's two American Naval Air bases have been warned they face a real threat of terrorist attack a Naval Air Station (NAS) spokesman said. Security at both the NAS in St. David's and the annex in Southampton has been substantially increased following the outbreak of war in the Persian Gulf. The new measures could impact on all Bermuda residents who were warned Saturday that access to both bases will be more tightly controlled than ever before.

An NAS spokesperson said: "The general mood on the base is one of vigilance, caution, and awareness. Personnel are being briefed and communication flow is open at all command levels. They are being asked to stay flexible and patient with the recent security precautions implemented worldwide."

Those resident within base confines have been ordered to keep a low profile and not advertise their status as U.S. military personnel when outside military boundaries. Base personnel have also been told to travel only when necessary, using military aircraft whenever available. Those using commercial aircraft have been advised not to travel in uniform.

Meanwhile, Premier Sir John Swan urged the people of Bermuda to be "calm and resolute." Sir John pointed out that Bermuda would feel the war economically through higher prices.

"We cannot afford actions which place the economy at unnecessary risk. Employers should—notwithstanding their business difficulties—try their best to carry staff over this difficult period," he said.

"Employees need to work harder and more conscientiously and realise that we are in a holding position, pending a turnabout in the economy. Employers and trade unions cannot take actions which place themselves on a collision course putting many innocent people unrelated to their disputes at risk."

The premier threw his weight behind the United States and their allies. "The government, while hoping that

there will be peace soon, stands four-square behind the allied coalition of forces in the Gulf, and more particularly with the Americans and British with whom we have a special relationship," he said.

Opposition leader Frederick Wade questioned the decision by the United States and its allies to start hostilities against Iraq. But he added: "This black cloud may have a silver lining for Bermuda." Wade characterised war in the Gulf as "a disaster for the world."

"I wish sanctions were given a chance. I don't think war will solve any long-term problems in the area," he said. However, on an economic note, Wade thought there might be some benefit for Bermuda whose affluence has been built on tourism and international business.

"The cold brutal fact is that we have an opportunity to sell ourselves in Europe. While I was in London I noticed that travel agencies were cancelling Mediterranean tours left and right." He said the threat of war and terrorism is forcing European vacationers away from their usual holiday locations.

Dominican Republic

President Balaguer Speaks on Emergency Situation

FL1901040691 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 0230 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Speech by President Joaquin Balaguer from the National Palace in Santo Domingo—live]

[Text] Fellow countrymen, since the Persian Gulf conflict began, our government—as all other non-oil producing countries in the area—has followed with anxious expectation the development of the events and explored with other friendly governments and international organizations who could help us in the case war broke and if oil and other hydrocarbons—gas oil, gas, etc.—turned into difficult goods to acquire by the Dominican Republic.

As a Catholic country, eminently Catholic country, we have joined the holy father, Supreme Pontiff John Paul II, in asking for peace, for the harmony of all humankind. As a small country—that is, as a country in which its existence depends, to a certain extent, on the compliance by others of the principles included in the San Francisco Charter, especially, the principle regarding the equality of all sovereignties—as a small country, I repeat, we have trusted that the conflict caused by the occupation of Kuwait would have been solved through the United Nations. We were confident, above all, that the solution to the problem given by the world organization would be a solution that strengthened peace and facilitated rapprochement and harmony among all members of the human race aside of political ideology and religious differences.

We are now facing war. The war places our country, as all countries in the world but above all small non-oil producing countries, in an emergency situation. This emergency situation could force us to take special measures. Thanks to the measures adopted by the appropriate authorities, we currently have enough oil; gasoline, gas oil, etc., to stand the effects of war for a short period of time of no more than 10 to 12 days. The government, therefore—through the oil refinery and its appropriate organizations—may be forced to ration hydrocarbons and decide on a case-by-case basis the amounts that can be sold to each interested person.

The Dominican Electricity Corporation [CDE], in turn, is ready to take all the appropriate provisions. Its director has already asked the public to use electric power with moderation, that it does not use it unless it is necessary. Fortunately, the CDE has the strong and free assistance of the hydroelectric power plants [words indistinct] thanks to the latest rain showers fallen in the country.

The CDE, moreover, has two large thermal power plants that operate with coal.

There is a group of pepole, however, that under the present circumstances, could help the country more than the government and its institutions, the CDE or the oil refinery.

I am referring to the businessmen, all businessmen in general, from the wholesalers to the retail salesmen; from the simple fruit shop salesman, and the simple [words indistinct], to the leaders of the largest companies.

This is why I vehemently urge these people and companies to be moderate in their eagerness to obtain high profits and I urge them not to alter the prices of staples, of those articles needed by all the people but particularly the most needy.

In addition, we have sufficient food supplies. At this time we have sufficient rice, beans, milk, and other primary products. We are also adopting the necessary measures to order more primary products.

I believe it may also be necessary to grant more facilities to those who import these articles so that they may carry out their operations with the proper guarantees and safeguards the government may implement for each case. I hereby make this formal offer to the importers.

I hope that the war, in spite of its difficulties, will not undermine our will. I hope that the current emergency will not defeat us, that adversity will not destroy us, as it has never been able to defeat us. Let us be like the oak, strong amidst powerful winds and tall despite being shaken by lightening.

I am aware that as Sancho Panza has said, man is as God made him and too often worse. I am also confident in the faith of our people before adversities. Above all, I am confident that our people will support Pope John Paul II and pray to God that peace will prevail on earth, on the

entire earth. Particularly, we ask The Almighty to enlighten those who at this time are responsible for the redemption or damnation of our world. Good Evening.

Haiti

Mayor Evans Paul Installed, Aristide Speaks

FL1801230491 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Evans Paul, alias K-Plum, of the National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD] was sworn in as the new mayor of Port-au-Prince yesterday morning at the Port-au-Prince Law Courts. The mayor, elected on 16 December, said in his speech that the FNCD has not yet won the battle, but that they are moving forward, scoring points: We will win the battle when we have conquered poverty, unemployment, and torture. Evans Paul told the people they will not regret pinning their hopes on the first-rate avalanche fighting roosters [FNCD candidates]. It is everyone from every social stratum who will join him to change the face of Port-au-Prince and fight insecurity. [passage omitted]

Despite the severe remark made by the new mayor asking the Army High Command either to resign or to make reforms in the institution, K-Plum admitted in his speech, both in Creole and in French, that it is through joint cooperation with the Army and the police that the desired changes will be made in all the institutions.

The new mayor offered congratulations to the people of Port-au-Prince, the State Council, and the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] for increasing their efforts to establish democracy in Haiti.

While asking friendly countries for help with the work he is about to undertake in the Port-au-Prince City Hall, and while acknowledging that the person most concerned about the recovery of the capital is the president, Father Aristide, Evans Paul told the people that they do not have to be afraid of criticizing or censuring him if he makes a blunder.

Following the mayor's speech, Father Aristide began an address with the words: Good luck to you, Avalanche [Lavalas]! The president, who will begin his appointment on 7 February, has launched a call to everybody, to all the avalanche zealots, to join with all their foreign friends to fulfill the Haitian national motto, "Unity Is Power," in justice, participation, and openness, to create a policy which will show the beauty of Port-au-Prince. In this way the party will be successful, Aristide noted.

[Begin Aristide recording] If Port-au-Prince is dirty, it is because it is governed by dirty policy. An honest policy has begun to show itself in the country. Port-au-Prince is not the Republic of Haiti, but the capital of Haiti. It has you, brother Evans, and your two collaborators, my sister Jocelyne, and my brother Joseph, to make its beauty apparent to the eyes of all of us. We can rely on the three of you, and the three of you may rely on us. The three of you will develop a policy based on justice, participation, and openness. We think this is all the Haitian people want. They would like to see Port-au-Prince become beautiful. They would like to see everybody in Port-au-Prince live as brothers and sisters. They would like to see all the provinces and all the other cities become pleasant. In this way, the example that we set in Port-au-Prince will affect other places throughout the country. This leads us already to believe this morning that a new day has begun. Each day Haiti will become more peaceful because the Port-au-Prince City Hall will not be a place where the former rulers can adorn themselves with red armbands to repeat their atrocities of 11 September, 1988 [the Saint-Jean Bosco Church slaughter which occured while Father Aristide was celebrating a mass]. [end recording]

Lawyers Refuse To Handle Lafontant Defense

FL1801204191 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] There have been no new developments in the Roger Lafontant case, mainly due to an inability to secure legal counsel for the defendants. Several lawyers who have been contacted refused to handle the case.

Lawyer Jean-Renel Sanon, when asked to conduct the defense of retired Colonel Gerard Louis, accomplice to Roger Lafontant during the attempted coup d'etat, replied: I do not want to defend a despot.

Another lawyer, Lherisson Alesy, said that he would have accepted the case of his former client Roger Lafontant in any country where there is a state of order, but in Haiti he is afraid to take that risk for fear of becoming the object of violence [dechouquage].

Member of the Port-au-Prince bar, Constantin Maillart Paul, attorney for former President Lesly Francois Manigat, said that he ordinarily would have no problem accepting the case, but that it is now impossible since his office was uprooted during the 7 January events.

Finally, lawyer Calixte Delatour advised that he is not available to defend Roger Lafontant, and that he would never wish to be available.

St. Kitts and Nevis

Simmonds Pledges Nation Support to U.S., Allies

FL2101132091 Bridgetown CANA in English 2152 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Basseterre, St. Kitts, Jan 19, CANA—St. Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Dr. Kennedy Simmonds and opposition leader Dr. Denzil Douglas on Saturday [20 January] hoped for an early peace in the Persian Gulf. Prime Minister Simmonds said in a statement it was unfortunate that all diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis have failed, and that the multi-national coalition led by the U.S. has had to resort to military force, to liberate Iraq-held Kuwait.

"It now seems clear, as all reasonable efforts to secure peace have been exhausted, that for international order to be restored there is no other option available than to implement the United Nations Security Council's decision to secure peace in the Gulf, by whatever means necessary," Simmonds added.

He said micro states like St. Kitts and Nevis could not condone the annexation of a small nation by a larger more powerful neighbour. Simmonds pledged his country's full support to the action taken by the United States and the coalition of United Nations member countries to restore Kuwait to full sovereignity and nationhood. He hoped that this action can be effected quickly and with minimal injury and loss of life and that Iraq will cease its aggression.

The opposition leader in a similar statement said it was unfortunate that this "sad state of affairs" had resulted after five long months of economic sanctions, threats of war, and intense diplomatic initiatives. Douglas suggested that even at this stage as war continues, "the diplomatic initiatives should not be abandoned, but the United Nations should continue to encourage dialogue among the leaders in this international conflict." He urged citizens here to pray for a speedy resolution to the crisis, to minimise the mass destruction and loss of lives.

Trinidad and Tobago

Muslim Group Appeals to King Fahd for Peace

FL2101181591 Bridgetown CANA in English 1720 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Jan 21, CANA—The largest Muslim organisation in Trinidad and Tobago has written to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, appealing for peace in the war-torn Persian Gulf. In the letter faxed to the king, Haji Mohammed Gufran Rahman of the Anjuman Sunnat-ul-Jamaat Association (ASJA) expressed the opinions of several Islamic bodies here and in the region on the Gulf War.

He said now that every effort had failed to prevent war in the Gulf, Muslims in Trinidad and Tobago, the rest of the Caribbean, and South America were convinced that even now peace lay in the hands of Saudi Arabia.

"King Fahd, as custodian of the Holy Shrines of Mecca and Medina, is bound by the Constitution of his Kingdom, which is the Holy Qur'an, not to be an aggressor in a war which would cause the death of his Muslim brothers," the letter said.

"King Fahd should therefore immediately withdraw from any military action which may internationally cause his Muslim brothers of Iraq to be killed," the letter added.

The letter, released to the news media here, told the Saudi monarch he was committing an "atrocious and heinous sin" in violation of his Constitution for which, he, and those with him, would be doomed to an "eternal and dreadful penalty." Saudi Arabia is the base of the U.S.-led multinational force seeking to push Iraq out of occupied Kuwait.

"Muslims of these parts are therefore calling on King Fahd to immediately withdraw from taking part in any aggression against his brother Muslims. He should also insist that all foreign troops based in Saudi Arabia do the same, since that country as the cradle of Islam, is sacred soil," the letter said.

Official Warns Against U.S. Trespassing

PA1901221991 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2135 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Jan (NOTIMEX)—The Mexican Government will not allow U.S. Forces to patrol its coasts, airspace, or national territory, Americo Flores Nava, chairman of the Chamber of Deputies' Navy Commission, warned today.

He emphasized that any transgression into these zones would be a violation of the country's sovereignty and "Mexico will not allow it under any circumstances, because we have the necessary capacity to protect our territory."

Flores Nava said that the Mexican Navy is closely watching the maritime oil production zone as well as the ports of Coatzacoalcos, Altamira, Dos Bocas, Alacranes, Salina Cruz, and Manzanillo.

"No foreign ship will be allowed to navigate through the 12 maritime miles that correspond to our patrimonial sea, but even foreign military ships may transit within the 188-mile exclusive economic zone without a prior permit," he explained.

Likewise, Demetrio Sodi de la Tijera, chairman of the commerce commission, said that Mexico has sufficient reserves to guarantee the distribution of food to the entire population and to prevent a lack of provisions.

He added that, given the good harvests of basic products in 1990 "the country is less dependent on other nations; and we will only have to import between 1.5 million and 2 million tons of corn and rice."

Nevertheless, Sodi de la Tijera admitted that problems may arise concerning the importation of other products—he did not say which ones—and concerning the lack of a market for national export products, but he considered this to be a temporary situation.

Sodi de la Tijera said that the world situation will not hasten the signing of the Free Trade Treaty (TCL) with the United States and, eventually, Canada.

"This treaty must follow certain procedures and the first draft will be ready for late 1992 or early 1993; and there will be enough time to review each of the clauses," he concluded.

Foreign Secretary Comments on Cooperation Program

PA2201010291 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0608 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana Morales said today that the Mexican cooperation program for Central America is different from the U.S. regional alliance for democracy and development.

He said Mexico's offer was not politically oriented but motivated by solidarity.

The Mexican official was interviewed by journalist Luis Suarez. He said that the recent Tuxtla Gutierrez summit evinced Mexico's interest in helping the Central American region to develop. He added that Mexico is interested in the development of Central America because of geographic closeness, national security, and because it is an area that offers concrete trade possibilities.

In this respect, Solana Morales noted during an interview which was broadcast by Imevision, that the Mexican cooperation program for Central American is more in agreement with the region than many of the country's programs for other areas in the world.

Concerning Mexico's efforts to help solve the Central American domestic conflicts, the foreign secretary said it is difficult to improve the region's economic and democratic conditions if it does not have political stability. Therefore, it is necessary to promote dialogue and consensus, he added.

The official said that the recent summit of the Mexican, Costa Rican, Guatemalan, Salvadoran, Honduran, and Nicaraguan presidents in Tuxtla Gutierrez had been a "starting point" as "more progress was made in a few hours than in many years of relations."

He added that the summit had established clear-cut commercial, scientific, technical, and cultural guidelines, and positively tackled regional problems in an open, and practical manner.

Solana Morales denied that Mexico had become an accuser because of the condemnation of the Salvadoran Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front during the Tuxtla Gutierrez summit. [sentence as received] He added that the objective is to achieve reconciliation.

In regard to the free trade agreement with Central America, the foreign secretary denied that such an agreement would jeopardize the signing of a similar agreement with the United States. He said the agreement with Central America was based on the Montevideo agreement and was aimed at eliminating customs and other obstacles.

The purpose is to integrate increasingly wider markets and to attain this goal you first have to work at a group level and then, if there is agreement between some of the countries, it will be easier to attain a general consensus on regional integration.

The Mexican foreign secretary reported that this was one of the reasons that the Colombian and Venezuelan presidents will attend the next Central American presidential summit that is to be held in Caracas.

He added that of the 500 million [currency not specified] in trade with Central America, 89 percent comprises Mexican exports to Central America and 11 percent is imports from the five countries.

The foreign secretary stressed that the trade between Mexico and Central America had to be more balanced. Such a balance is to be achieved with cooperation

agreements such as the San Jose Pact that provides for Mexico and Venezuela to distribute petroleum to the area at preferential prices.

"We are interested in a developing Central America and want to help them develop; we do not want a Central America at war," Solana Morales said.

He said it was feasible that the benefits received by the five Central American countries would be extended to other countries such as Panama and Cuba. Mexico's priority, however, is Central America at this moment, Solana Morales added.

He estimated that the Persian Gulf crisis could jeopardize the distribution of petroleum to Central America. However, according to the San Jose Pact, this would only happen if the barrel of crude oil went over $40. If not, the current prices would be maintained because a protection mechanism for such eventualities had been established.

The Mexican diplomat highlighted Mexico's tradition in the defense of peace, its moral authority to solve conflicts, and President Salinas de Gortari's call for peace when the Persian Gulf war started on 16 January.

Solana Morales stressed the need for the conflicting nations to work jointly and for the United Nations to find a negotiated solution to the Middle East conflict that would lead to genuine peace.

Police on Alert To Keep Terrorists Out of U.S.

PA2001234091 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2204 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] Hermosillo, 20 Jan (NOTIMEX)—The Sonora Police Department has implemented a surveillance operation in view of the possibility that terrorists could be in the area in transit to the United States. This was announced by Sonora State Attorney Sostenes Valenzuela Miller.

Valenzuela Miller said that the police are on the alert for "anything" that could get Mexico involved in acts of terrorism as a result of the Middle East war.

State Treasurer Gustavo Astiazaran Rosas has said that the negative effects the Persian Gulf war could have on Sonora will depend on the duration of the war. He said that wars bring serious consequences for the countries at war and for the nations that maintain commercial relations with them.

He said that because of the armed conflict in the Middle East, Mexico will be able to export more oil, agricultural and livestock products to the United States.

Roberto Matuz, who manages an export firm that deals with decorative items, has said that the war will provoke a crisis in the border region because the people of the United States are careful with their spending when they are going through an economic recession.

Government Vows To Protect Citizens in Gulf

PA2201034991 Paris AFP in Spanish 0313 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] Mexico City, 21 Jan (AFP)—The Mexican Government has intensified efforts to protect its citizens in countries directly affected by the war in the Persian Gulf, according to a Foreign Secretariat communique issued today.

The Foreign Secretariat explained that "a group of Mexicans has requested assistance" to leave Jordan, and another "small group of women and children" has already been evacuated from Saudi Arabia and is on the way to Rome, Italy.

The communique added that diplomatic personnel are still in the Mexican Embassies and Consulates in Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Israel, and Jordan, to maintain contact with Mexican residents, so as to offer "any kind of support that they require."

The Foreign Secretariat communique says that the country in the area of conflict in which there are the most Mexicans, 900 of them, is Israel.

In closing, the communique said that the families of all Mexican diplomats assigned to the region were evacuated before the outbreak of hostilities.

War Protesters Demonstrate at U.S. Embassy

PA2001222791 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2018 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Hundreds of children, parents, and students from different grades gathered today at the capital city's main square, Zocalo Square, to protest against the war and ask for an immediate cease-fire.

In their hands, the children carried bunches of white flowers tied together with ribbons that read "peace," while their parents held banners reading "no more blood for oil."

Professor Alma Rosa Hernandez of the 54th High School, located in the Atzacualco neighborhood, a member of the Gustavo A. Madero delegation, said that the demonstration was called by the teachers themselves and the Public Education Secretariat (SEP).

At first, only a few people gathered, but as time passed, more groups of youngsters and children arrived with their parents, who carried signs which said all sorts of things against the war and the world leaders who encourage violence.

High school student Tania Garcia spoke, asked for solidarity with the victims of the war, and repudiated the conflict.

At approximately 1200 hours, the group headed toward Reforma Avenue via 5 May Street, to join other demonstrators who had gathered in front of the U.S. Embassy.

Belize

Opposition Leader Issues Statement on Gulf War

FL1801164091 Bridgetown CANA in English 1609 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Belize City, Belize, Jan 18, CANA—Former Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel has urged Belizeans to pray for a short war in the Persian Gulf. In a statement, the opposition United Democratic Party leader said:

"The suffering that is being experienced by the combatants will no doubt be multiplied many times over among the civilian populations of the region, and will extend in varying degrees to all parts of the world, including Belize, as the war progresses."

He called on all Belizeans to pray for relatives involved in the conflict between Iraq and an international alliance trying to force the country to withdraw from Kuwait.

"We pray for their safety, and pray that this war will be of short duration so that the suffering may be minimised," he said.

Officials here estimate that there are about 200 Belizeans serving in the United States Armed Forces.

Costa Rica

Foreign Ministry Condemns Attack on Israel

PA1901031591 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] The Costa Rican Government is deeply concerned over the Iraqi missile attack on Tel Aviv and other Israeli cities. These attacks endangered the lives of civilians and caused much damage.

The Persian Gulf war has created deep concern among the international community because of the possibility that it might expand, and because it becomes increasingly difficult to reach a solution. Iraq persists in its refusal to comply with UN Security Council resolutions to withdraw from Kuwait.

The attack on Israel, which is not at war, only serves to worsen the crisis, according to a communique issued today by the Costa Rican Foreign Ministry.

The Costa Rican Government expresses its solidarity with the government and people of Israel after the attack. It expresses its firm hope that the hostilities in the Middle East will end soon and conditions will be set for all countries in the area to live in peace and prosperity.

Meanwhile, President Calderon Fournier also deplores and condemns the Iraqi attack on Israeli territory. He said: I deplore and condemn this action. This is an unnecessary attack against a civilian population. It is simply an example of what Husayn is capable of doing.

The president said that the military action by the international community in the Persian Gulf is intended to end attitudes like this one, where women and children are attacked in a country which is not even at war.

He deplored what happened in Tel Aviv and other Israeli areas that were hit by missiles launched from Iraq, causing much damage and panic among the people.

El Salvador

FMLN Communique Confirms Atrocity, Trial

PA2101210991 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1915 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] San Salvador, 21 Jan (NOTIMEX)—The Salvadoran guerrillas admitted today that two of its members executed two U.S. soldiers in early January, and they announced the beginning of a trial that will involve independent personalities.

In a communique issued to the press, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) revealed the results of an investigation that it conducted into the death of the U.S. soldiers on 2 January.

The soldiers were executed, according to the FMLN, on orders from a regional chief with the pseudonym "Dominguez" who was in the area and carried out by a guerrilla unit chief known as "Porfirio."

The FMLN report matches one released by local authorities last week which said that a peasant who testified identified one of the culprits as guerrilla "Porfirio."

After admitting that the detainees are charged with committing a war crime, the FMLN said that "any attempt to extradite the accused or to turn them over to the Salvadoran judicial system is absolutely unacceptable."

The rebels also said that they are making preparations to begin a judicial process to which independent observers will be invited. Also the detainees will be presented to the press in the next few days.

The guerrillas added that a "combined tribunal," comprised of FMLN members and independent personalities to "guarantee its impartiality," will be established.

On 2 January the FMLN downed a helicopter that was carrying three U.S. crewmen and flying over Lolotique, about 130 km from the capital. The two soldiers who survived the crash were later executed.

Cristiani Backs Implementation of UN Resolutions

PA1801230091 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Message to the nation by President Alfredo Cristiani; place not given—live]

[Text] Fellow Salvadorans: A war started yesterday in the Persian Gulf to restore Kuwait's sovereignty and rights. Iraq invaded Kuwait on 2 August 1990, in flagrant violation of international law and the basic principles of civilized international coexistence. The whole world has witnessed the many efforts by governments, international organizations, and prominent figures since the day of the Iraqi invasion up until a few hours before the expiration of the deadline set by the UN Security Council for reaching a peaceful solution to the crisis. The whole world also witnessed how Saddam Husayn's arrogance and cockiness defeated all of the peace initiatives. The United Nations, through the Security Council, issued 12 resolutions condemning the Iraqi invasion. Iraq ignored all 12 resolutions, openly disdaining international law. To let this situation stand, without letting right avail itself of its legitimate might to enforce the law, would have been a historic mistake of worse magnitude than the possible results of the action started by the allies. This group of allies has joined together in unprecedented principles and goals.

Our government, interpreting the will of the Salvadoran people, has always supported the law domestically and internationally. We believed until the last moment that it was possible to find a solution to the Gulf crisis without resorting to war. There were some completely reasonable peace proposals, which were acceptable according to political logic and historic common sense. We are faced here, however, with an example of fanaticism at its worst. It rules out all reasoning and understanding. This incredible attitude of blindness and stubbornness always ends in deplorable situations which particularly affect those who want to cling to the force of their absurdity.

In view of the inevitable events in the Persian Gulf, we express our utmost support of the UN resolutions and their strict compliance. We believe the allies are fulfilling their duty defending the interests of the international community.

Although ongoing events are justified by their defense of international law, they are still saddening, because human lives are at stake. We hereby express our hope that the war will end as soon as possible, and with the loss of as few innocent victims as possible.

As to the effect that this situation might have on our country, we ask the Salvadoran people to trust the precautionary measures adopted by the government. We have always been sincere with our countrymen. We will never alter that approach.

The measures adopted by the government before war broke out guarantee that there will be no shortage or unexpected price fluctuations. Among others, we have adopted the following measures:

We renewed, under very favorabale conditions, our supply agreement with Mexico and Venezuela within the framework of the San Jose Pact.

We also obtained the guarantee of oil supplies.

We have maintained our oil reserves at their maximun storage capacity, and oil shipments are scheduled to arrive soon.

This guarantees us a normal supply of oil for three months.

According to the first reactions on the world market, we are led to believe that the crisis will not have the devastating effect that some people had predicted. On the contrary, there are possibilities for a relatively prompt stabilization.

We ask our people to join in praying for peace to return promptly to the Middle East and to our dear country, so that we can live in this world as human beings and as what we really are, true brothers. May God bless you and give us all the strength and wisdom to build and preserve peace throughout the world.

Notes Gulf, Personnel Changes

PA1901194391 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 18 Jan 91 p 21

[Text] On 17 January, President Cristiani announced that he would send Salvadoran coffee to the allied troops in the Persian Gulf conflict, and that there would be changes in his cabinet and Mexico's position regarding the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN].

During a news conference at the Presidential House, the president reported that the Salvadoran coffee, which is to be sent to the allied troops who are liberating Kuwait, was being prepared. He did not say how much was going to be sent, but he did say that approximately $150,000 will be spent on this aid.

Answering LA PRENSA GRAFICA's questions, the president said that Oscar Santamaria will be the new presidency minister, Rene Hernandez Valiente will replace Santamaria as justice minister, and the Deputy Education Minister Cecilia Gallardo de Cano will be acting education minister. He also reported that the income deputy ministry, under the Treasury Ministry, will be closed and that the current deputy minister will be given the office of deputy treasury minister.

In regard to the recent Tuxtla Gutierrez summit, President Cristiani indicated that Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari had given him complete assurances that the FMLN leaders would have to leave Mexico immediately if they used Mexican territory to send logistical aid to the guerrilla groups in El Salvador and that the leaders are only guests in Mexico now.

Cristiani assured the Salvadoran people that the country's petroleum would last three more months and that prices would not be increased. He said he hoped that the Persian Gulf conflict would not last long thus sparing El Salvador of its negative effects.

Concerning the renewal of military aid to El Salvador, Cristiani emphasized the need for the FMLN to understand that the reason President Bush had ordered that the aid not be sent for 60 days was to allow the FMLN to stop its warring activity before this period was up. He said President Bush had set this condition because he does not want war to continue in El Salvador.

In conclusion, President Cristiani referred to the contrasting positions of the USSR and Fidel Castro on the Persian Gulf situation. The USSR wants Saddam Husayn to leave Kuwait and Castro supports Husayn. The president said this clearly showed the arrogance of a dictator who "is being left behind in history."

Economy Minister Assures '3 Month' Fuel Reserve

PA2001031591 San Salvador Radio Cadena Horizonte in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Report by Mauricio Burgos in San Salvador—live]

[Text] We have the information provided this morning by Economy Minister Arturo Zablah, who said that the country has enough oil and foreign currency reserves to face the fuel crisis—at least for three months. The government has oil reserves for three months, said the economy minister, who added that the government will allow no increase in the price of fuel and other petroleum products.

Arturo Zablah said that the war being waged in the Persian Gulf does not represent a major problem for the nation's economy because we have enough oil and foreign currency reserves to face a possible increase in oil prices on the international market.

[Begin Zablah recording] I would like to reassert the [word indistinct] message to the Salvadoran people, stating that there are enough reserves of oil and petroleum—kerosene, diesel fuel, etc.—for three months. The government normally has reserves for one and one-half months, but we increased the reserves to last three months. Therefore, we can rest assured that there will be no lack of fuel.

Likewise, since the reserves were purchased at a relatively stable price—meaning a price that is affordable at the current gasoline and diesel prices—there are no plans to raise prices for any petroleum products. Furthermore, we could possibly obtain the loads from two more tankers, which would increase our reserves from three to four months. [end recording]

Nevertheless, government precautions do not guarantee that the price of petroleum products will remain unchanged for the manufacture of consumer goods, thus revealing the possibility of an increase in price of manufactured goods—because the government will subsidize no imports—the economy minister said.

Minister Arturo Zablah added that the three-month margin can be increased to four months if the government is able to negotiate for the purchase of the oil of two more tankers before the international situation changes. He stated his hope that the Persian Gulf war will not last long, adding that his government's security is strengthened with the oil supplies promised by the presidents of Mexico and Venezuela, who recently guaranteed President Cristiani that they would supply oil under preferential conditions.

In addition, Economy Minister Arturo Zablah warned gas station owners that they must not raise fuel prices—or they will be fined between 100 and 10,000 colons. The warning also extends to transportation sector businessmen.

Jesuits Accuse Attorney General of 'Indifference'

PA2001011291 San Salvador SIETE DIAS in Spanish 17 Jan 91 p 2

[Text] The Society of Jesus has accused Attorney General Roberto Mendoza Jerez of acting in complicity with the perpetrators of the massacre of the Jesuit priests, adding that the resignation of the prosecutors in charge of the case represents a loss of credibility in the judicial process, and this will have "grave repercussions for the case."

Prosecutors Sidney Blanco and Henry Campos last week resigned from their posts due to "contradictions" with the prosecutor general's office with regard to the investigation of 12 military officers who are charged with assassinating six Jesuit priests and their two maids on 16 November 1989. There is talk about the possibility that the two prosecutors may be hired by the Jesuits as private prosecutors. The Jesuit order said that the "indifference" of the Attorney General's Office to accelerating the investigation and finding those who planned the murder—higher up then Colonel Guillermo Benavides—"is an act of complicity with those who have withheld evidence or who have lied throughout the current process."

Father Jose Maria Tojeira, provincial Jesuit leader for Central America, explained that the prosecutors' resignations imply the loss of credibility in the process and "give the impression that the position of prosecutor will now be imposed."

"There is enough evidence in this case to say that more persons participated in the murder and that those who planned it acted with impunity. The attorney general refuses to acknowledge that fact and he wants to try only the nine persons who have already been accused of this crime," Father Tojeira stated.

"The attorney general's position is wrong—not only wrong, but also irresponsible—with regard to his obligations," Tojeira said, adding that the attorney general has opted "to attack only the nine who have been accused,

without worrying at all about carrying out a more thorough investigation to locate those who planned the crime."

Peasant Groups Condemn U.S., Persian Gulf War

PA2101211691 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2025 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] San Salvador, 21 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Several peasant groups of El Salvador warned today that the Persian Gulf war may have "grave repercussions" in the peace process which is currently under way in the country.

The peasant sector of the National Union of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS) held a demonstration in front of the U.S. Embassy in this capital to protest the military actions in the Persian Gulf.

The demonstrators arrived in San Salvador this morning from diferent rural communities and joined a march through the main streets, ending with a demonstration in front of the U.S. Embassy.

One UNTS leader, Marco Tulio Lima, said that the attitude of the U.S. Administration was "interventionist" and warned about the repercussions that the Middle East events may have on El Salvador's peace process.

The Persian Gulf war "is grave for the country because the United States' warmongering attitude affects President Alfredo Cristiani, causing him to think that what is being done in Iraq can also be done in El Salvador, he said.

According to Lima, President George Bush "has dragged the United Nations into a criminal war against Iraq."

He added that the Persian Gulf conflict will also cause "grave damage to the Salvadoran people's economy, particularly in the agrarian sector."

"Machinery will become expensive and international credits will not be forthcoming because rich countries will invest in the war," he stated.

Given this situation, the organizations demanded that Cristiani's administration freeze the price of staples.

Group Protests U.S. Military Aid to Government

PA2101043891 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 17 Jan 91 p 2

[Text] The total reinstatement of U.S. military aid to El Salvador will encourage the most rightist sectors of the country, the Marianela Garcia Villa Committee of Relatives of Murdered and Missing [Codefam] cautioned today.

The U.S. Administration has decided to deliver to the Salvadoran Government $42.5 million in military aid it had been retaining because of violations of human rights and because of the little progress in the field of respect for human rights.

Mauricio Martinez and Margarita Aleman, two Codefam leaders, have said during a news conference that the reinstatement of the aid will encourage the Armed Forces and worsen the economic crisis and the human rights situation in the country.

Mauricio Martinez stated that the aid would enhance the impunity the Armed Forces have enjoyed in the case of the Jesuits murdered in 1989, will hinder the deputies and mayors March elections, and will result in increased numbers of people being detained and made to disappear.

Margarita Aleman said that labor leaders are receiving death threats from the "Maximiliano Hernandez Martinez" death squads.

The two leaders indicated that repressive actions would increase, but hope this will not happen until after the March elections. It could be so, Aleman said, because they want to show the world the image of human rights being respected here.

ARENA Leader Denies Resumed Aid To Fuel War

PA2101011291 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] San Salvador Mayor Armando Calderon Sol today maintained that the unfreezing of 50 percent of the U.S. military aid to El Salvador does not affect the negotiating process between the government and the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front]. Calderon Sol said that the U.S. decision is a message to the FMLN.

According to some opposition politicians, if the military aid for the Armed Forces is resumed, the war will tend to expand. Calderon Sol, who is also president of the pro-government Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, said, however, that that is not true.

[Begin Calderon Sol recording] On the contrary, it strengthens the dialogue because it shows that there is a clear stand backing the democratic process. The subversives are being told that they must join the democratic process and participate in the country's institutions. I believe the message is very clear. [Words indistinct] about the FMLN in the missile case. [end recording]

Calderon Sol also played down the importance of accusations, by certain political parties, that ARENA has taken a lead in the electoral campaign because it is making use of government propaganda. According to the mayor, this is a maneuver by the opposition to seek attention from the media. Within this context, Calderon stressed that the electoral campaign is under way normally.

[Begin Calderon Sol recording] The political parties are already making the usual accusations. This means that

the campaign is under way. In addition, no one is restraining them from using the media. Reporters attend their news conferences, they can use the television channels, and they have their own programs and their propaganda. I do not think there have been any abuses in the electoral campaign. On the contrary, support is being given to [words indistinct] so that the democratic process can become stronger. Of course, there will be accusations. The campaign is just starting. There will be accusations every day. This is part of our political life. The truth, however, is that the opposition charges are not true. We are strengthening the democratic process and the people value this. [end recording]

In addition, Calderon Sol noted that he favors holding a meeting among Inter-Party Commission members to discuss the mechanisms to elect the deputies that will represent El Salvador in the Central American Parliament. The opposition disagreed with a proposal by Vice President Francisco Merino, who says that the national deputies who will be chosen in March should be the same people to participate in the Central American Parliament. Calderon Sol said that this proposal was consulted on and that it should be discussed within the Inter-Party Commission. He said, however, that the Esquipulas II agreements clearly establish how deputies to the parliament should be elected.

Army Provides Military Situation Update

PA2001161991 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 15 Jan 91 p 3

[Text] Coprefa [Armed Forces Press Committee] reports that the terrorist Efigenio Marquez Vigil was arraigned yesterday before the first court of San Francisco Gotera, Morazan Department, based on the report from the fourth military detachment [DM-4], which has its headquarters in the same department capital.

The report states that Marquez Vigil had been the instructor of the so-called "Samuelitos" for eight years in the eastern zone. It adds: It is well known that the "Samuelitos" are groups of boys whom the subversives kidnap and later they become fighters in the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] rebel ranks.

The DM-4 adds that, following the mentioned terrorist's capture on Saturday 12 January, a group of people from the "Segundo Montes" community of repatriated citizens gathered in front of the military installations to demand the release of the Samuelitos' instructor.

Also, it was reported that the repatriated people remained there for more than 20 hours, even though the reasons for Efigenio Marquez' detention were explained to them. The mentioned military unit said that the people withdrew from the zone after the prisoner was turned over to the appropriate court.

The same garrison explained that four terrorists and one soldier were wounded in clashes which occurred yesterday at El Pajarito and El Coyol hills, located in the towns of Delicias de Concepcion and Osicala, respectively.

In addition, it was reported that the Atlacatl Battalion's troops yesterday seized 10 booby traps, seven blocks of TNT, 23 blocks for catapults, several ammunition clips, and abundant material to manufacture explosive devices.

The report indicates that the discovery of this material occurred while combing the village of El Jicaro, Las Vueltas jurisdiction, Chalatenango Department.

Another report indicates that terrorists harassed members of the 5th Military Detachment today at 0030 while the soldiers were protecting the town of Tonacatepeque, located northwest of San Salvador. The clash lasted 15 minutes, but no casualties or damage were reported.

It was also reported that members of the 3d Military Detachment of La Union evacuated relatives of an FMLN fighter who deserted from the organization and surrendered in that eastern zone of the country.

The subversive was identified as "Chilo," but his name is being kept secret for security purposes. When the rebel surrendered to the military authorities, he delivered one AK-47 rifle that he explained he had taken from a rebel leader identified as "Nelson" while no one was watching.

FMLN Statement Points to 1990 Military Gains

PA2101220791 San Salvador LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 12 Jan 91 p 32-A

[Paid advertisement: "Year's End Message," issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) General Command on 31 December 1990]

[Text] The year 1990 concludes with a clear awareness that the efforts undertaken by the entire people of El Salvador during this year have yielded results. It has been a year where the unity of the social forces that support changes in our country has been forged. The FMLN's view, from its command and leadership structures to its grass roots, is that this is year of victory. It suffices for any of us to recall how 1989 ended in a somber omen about the presumed and inevitable extinction of the FMLN in the face of international developments, and chiefly following the Sandinist defeat. The false belief encouraged the government to, among other things, accept UN meditation and sign the Geneva protocol and Caracas Agenda, which they regarded as a bridge for our surrender.

In a matter of months, our enemies went from euphoria to frustration; nobody said we had to surrender and lay down our weapons. We are seated at the greatest table of negotiations with the United Nations as mediator. We have territorial, political, social, and military power,

recognized even abroad. The Nationalist Republican Alliance government and the army expected he would be defeated in a few days. To their bitter realization, they are the ones on trial. The shameful crime they perpetrated against six Jesuit priests and their maids was not even tolerated by the U.S. Congress, which cut military aid in half. The Armed Forces have lost their prestige and voices asking for its abolition are growing stronger. The year 1990 ends with a resounding defeat for the criminal army. The highly positive results of the campaign "Punishment for the Antidemocratic Armed Forces" represented the greatest frustration of our enemies, for it proved them to be not just a criminal but an inept army. We saw that hiding in the national territory was not enough. The "elite" troops took refuge in Honduras in the face of the drive by the glorious National Army for Democracy.

Our Proposal

The FMLN is part of a conglomerate of forces that is struggling for changes in our country, and thus, shares with them the feeling that the negotitions constitute the rational way toward a solution of the conflict. "Therefore, the model of society we will attain together will be different." Necessarily, it will be a society more just, without the military boot kicking students, workers, political leaders, and peasants, without any kind of dictatorship, and without death squads.

In the society that we will build, there will be land for those that work it, news media for all, chiefly for those that defend the interests of the poor, and a sector of the economy will be in the hands of the organized people. Our country will defend its natural resources against the greediness of transnational companies and will implement an independent foreign policy of peace in the community of Latin American and Third World nations. Prevailing above everything in this model are true democracy and full development for civilian society. The heroic blood of the 401 brothers fallen in last year's offensive, which fuses with the blood of those killed in these past 10 years of struggle, nurtures the birth of the new fatherland the majority of Salvadorans dream of. At the conclusion of 1990 we are reaping, alongside our people, the fruits of perseverance and the noble commitment with justice. For the first time in history, the possibility of transforming society has opened up precisely because those that have violently opposed change are now afraid and cornered. It is necessary that we go down the line and achieve, in this year that is beginning, the end of the conflict.

At the end of the year, we salute each soldier and chief of the National Army for Democracy and all the FMLN structures. We salute the heroic people of El Salvador, who together with other peoples who have followed the path traced by Bolivar, Marti, Che Guevara, and Msgr. Arnulfo Romero, constitute the hope of America. We will not disappoint that hope and we will create a free El Salvador without armies and democratic.

FMLN General Command, 31 December 1990.
Orlando Diaz Melendez, i.d. No. 7-074-533

Guatemala

'Explosive Device' Said To Damage Radio Station

PA1901160991 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1519 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Guatemala City, 19 Jan (NOTIMEX)—A powerful explosive device exploded last night at the installations of Radio Emisoras Unidas in Guatemala City. The explosion damaged the building which houses the radio station that broadcasts the most important newscasts of Guatemala and has the broadest coverage in the country.

There has been a wave of dynamite attacks in Guatemala City, but this is the first attack against the media.

The explosion destroyed a mobile unit of the "News Patrol" newscast and shattered some windows of Radio Emisoras Unidas.

Yesterday national police and army experts defused four dynamite devices placed near an area where some 500 children of the women belonging to the National Coordinating Board of Guatemalan Widows had spent the night on 17 January.

So far this week, four bombs have exploded in Guatemala City and five have been defused.

The Guatemalan Government has not issued any statement on the wave of attacks.

Government Orders Fuel Consumption Measures

PA1901040391 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0134 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Guatemala City, 18 Jan (NOTIMEX)—The Guatemalan Government today decided to ration oil consumption in order to prevent any difficulties in the international oil market because of the war in the Persian Gulf.

President Jorge Serrano has announced that gas stations will not sell fuel on Saturdays and Sundays. He urged the people to save electricity, oil, and oil derivatives. The government also prohibited the circulation of official vehicles on weekends from 1900 to 0600.

Guatemala's oil reserves will barely cover the demand for the next 45 days but it is believed that due to the announced measures, the current supply will last up to 100 days, Serrano stated. He noted: "We do not know what will happen with oil and we want to move ahead of events to prevent Guatemala from going out of our control." [sentence as received]

Guatemala regrets the war but supports the efforts of the allied forces, which are doing everything possible to

prevent the establishment of a deadly precedent on the right to conquer other nations.

Serrano claimed that "subversive forces" produced the oil spill in the northern part of the country. This past Thursday, a guerrilla group dynamited two sectors of the oil pipeline in Alta Verapaz Department, north of this capital.

URNG Claims Credit for Dynamite Attacks

PA2201025991 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 18 Jan 91 p6

[Excerpts] The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) claimed credit yesterday for dynamite attacks on the installations of an oil company, the Basic Resources International Bahamas Limited.

The attacks were committed at km 326 and 327, in the jurisdiction of Chisec, Alta Verapaz, by 200 URNG members dressed in olive drab. On Wednesday, 16 January, they dynamited the pipeline running from the Rubelsanto wells to Izabal.

After blowing up the pipeline, the guerrillas intercepted suburban buses belonging to the Unidos del Norte company, and forced the drivers and passengers to listen to a harangue in which the guerrillas shouted slogans against government authorities. [passage omitted]

In addition, the URNG, in radio messages broadcast in this capital, has said that it will continue to blow up bridges unless the Army stops kidnapping people, primarily in the countryside.

Serrano Reiterates Peace Offer to URNG

PA2101192291 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 18 Jan 91 p 6

[Text] Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano Elias declared yesterday that he is not asking the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) for a truce or a cease-fire. What his government is requesting is total peace, and not one of the two alternatives that do not benefit anyone.

The president said he is seriously involved in the peace process and is not playing. He seeks to find the mechanisms that will lead from the current conflictive situation to one of peace, wherein the Esquipulas II agreement can be fulfilled.

That peace must be based, without conflicts, on the existing socioeconomic reforms to guarantee a dignified life to Guatemalan society and to Guatemalans, within the framework of the laws of the country, he said.

Regarding international policy, he said: "First we must look at the country's internal problems and resolve the existing cases. Any charges that are made must be refuted with the evidence that my government is respectful of human rights."

Serrano Elias said that he invited Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari to visit Guatemala to strengthen the friendship between the two nations and to recognize the merit of the Mexican president's steadfast cooperation in securing peace in the Central American region.

Army Announces 'Important' Personnel Changes

PA2201025791 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 17 January 91 p6

[Communique issued by the Army in Guatemala City on 15 January 1991]

[Text] The Army's General Order for Officers No. 01-91, dated 14 January 1991, announces important changes within the armed institution, as follows:

Brigade General Edgar Augusto Godoy Gaitan will be the deputy chief of the national defense's general staff, replacing Brigade General Luis Enrique Mendoza Garcia, who was appointed national defense minister.

Brigade General Marco Antonio Vargas Espinola will be the commander of the Guatemalan Air Force, replacing Brigade General Humberto Raul Angeles Juarez, who has been appointed deputy national defense minister.

Brigade General Jorge Roberto Perussina Rivera was appointed commander of Military Zone No. 23, Santa Elena de la Cruz, Flores, Peten. He replaces Infantry Colonel Luis Francisco Ortega Menaldo, who will be the new chief of the presidential general staff.

Infantry Colonel Sergio Arnoldo Camargo Muralles was appointed commander of Military Zone No. 19, Huehuetenango.

Air Force Colonel Otto Ricardo Rios Alvarez was appointed commander of the "Lieutenant Colonel Danilo Eugenio Henry Sanchez" Air Base in Santa Elena de la Cruz, Flores, Peten.

Cavalry Colonel Jorge Roberto Trejo Reyes was appointed commander of the presidential guard while Air Force Colonel Hugo Benigno Siliezar Juarez was appointed chief of the personal general staff of the vice president of the Republic.

Guatemala City, 15 January 1991

Rebels Obstruct Oil Transport Since December

PA2101221291 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 16 Jan 91 p 11

[Report by Arnulfo Chapas Perez]

[Text] Guatemala City, 16 Jan—According to a reliable source, the guerrillas have obstructed the transportation of oil extracted from the Shan well in El Peten. Since November, rebel artillery in the stretch between the well and Yalpemech have prevented the transportation of the crude to Rubelsanto, Coban, where it is refined.

Consulted by telephone, an engineer by the name of Detesano said that harassment has always been carried out in that stretch and added that he could give no more information. Asked about this matter, an official by the name of Sosa, who is in charge of releasing information at the explorations company in that area, noted that all transportation activity came to a halt in December, but he said that he did not know the reasons.

Our original source, who asked not be identified, said that the guerrillas intend to negotiate, at a high level, with the company for the payment of a tax in order to allow fuel trucks to go through. Meanwhile, the company could offer an official explanation in the next few days about what is truly happening in that remote area in northern Guatemala.

Honduras

Callejas Voices Support for UN Action in Gulf

PA1901022591 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 18 Jan 91 p 3

["Message to the nation" by President Rafael Leonardo Callejas in Tegucigalpa on 17 January]

[Text] Fellow countrymen: In view of the regrettable events that have been taking place in the Persian Gulf since August 1990, we have unconditionally backed the UN Security Council resolutions. One of those resolutions, undoubtedly the most important, calls for the immediate withdrawal of the invading troops from Kuwait. The Honduran backing for that demand is based on a permanent position of the Honduran state, a position that we are reaffirming today. It is the position that the annexation of one country by another cannot be and must not be permitted, that international peace can exist only on the basis of respect for the sovereign rights of the states, and that the territorial integrity of a country cannot be violated without the aggressor suffering negative consequences for such an action.

The international community is composed mostly of nations that, relatively speaking, are economically and militarily weak. This is why it is important to have law and reason be the norms in international relations, regardless of the military capabilities and the economic potential of each country.

Peace, peaceful coexistence, and international security are based on respect for law and reason and on the readiness of the United Nations to respond quickly to any violation of these principles or of their spirit.

It is in this context that we observe with sadness how war has been unleashed between the international community and Iraq in spite of extraordinary and patient efforts made by the United Nations, governments, individual statesmen, and international prestigious personalities to spare mankind this pain and to save precious lives, the fate of which only God should decide.

With deep reverence for human values—life being one of the most important human values—we believe that this will be a short conflict with a minimum of deaths and suffering.

We ask the Lord to enlighten the minds and to calm the heart of those who have voluntarily lost the way to civilized and peaceful coexistence among nations. We also ask God that, once the painful effects of the current tragedy in the Persian Gulf cease, the states directly involved in the conflict will return to work and build a more secure and promising world for all the people.

We ask our fellow countrymen to remain calm in the face of this temporary crisis. They can be sure that the government, aware of problems that could emerge, has adopted measures, especially with regard to oil and oil derivatives supplies. We now have enough oil to last six weeks. We also have secured the supplies necessary for a normal economy so that the people may continue living normally. We beg you to comply in a responsible and disciplined fashion with all the measures we have adopted or that we may adopt in the future in order to ensure that everybody will have access to all the supplies. The worst damage we could inflict on ourselves is to have exaggerated fears or become the victims of a mass psychosis artificially and emotionally conceived. I respectfully ask the media to cooperate with our effort to develop the people's trust and calm and to help them fully comprehend the events, wihout diminishing the negative effects of the conflict and without exaggerating its seriousness.

If all of us behave in a disciplined and sensible manner, we will be able to overcome all difficulties and we will move forward without having to make any additional sacrifices. All sectors of the economy must assume their responsibilities, aware of the fact that if we act honestly, use common sense, and remain calm, all of us will benefit from such behavior.

May God, with all His wisdom and unlimited ability to understand our defects, help us. Good night.

Tegucigalpa
17 January 1991

French Ambassador Calls Attack 'Political'

PA2101183891 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 21 Jan 91 p 13

[Text] French Ambassador to Honduras Jose Ramon has told LA TRIBUNA that the attack on the French Consulate in San Pedro Sula seems to be political inasmuch as his country supports the UN resolutions on the Persian Gulf conflict.

The ambassador confirmed that two fragmentation grenades exploded on 18 January at the consulate. According to a police source, the grenades were hurled by individuals riding a bicycle.

Our country approved "saving peace" at the last moment, said the French ambassador referring to the use of military force against Iraq so that it would withdraw from Kuwait, which it invaded in August 1990.

Ramon said that the grenades only caused property damage in the consulate, and in view of the current situation, it is believed the attack is political.

It was reported that the Honduran Armed Forces were maintaining a normal surveillance at the diplomatic offices in Honduras for the countries forming the alliance against Iraq in the Persian Gulf, but it has now decided to reinforce security.

Nicaragua

Dreyfus Says Country Supports UN Resolutions

PA1801125191 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1212 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has expressed its support for the United States in the Persian Gulf conflict. Foreign Minister Enrique Dreyfus said yesterday that Nicaragua supports the UN Security Council resolutions on the war against Iraq. The United Nations gave Iraq until 15 January to leave Kuwait. The United States based its decision to attack Iraq on 16 January, along with troops of its Arab allies, on this resolution.

Dreyfus added that the Central American governments, along with Venezuela and the Inter-American Development Bank, have been holding talks on the crisis stemming from the war against Iraq.

He added that Nicaragua is willing to give provide protection for the embassies because of the Middle East conflict should it be asked to do so.

Ministers Hold Joint Press Conference

PA2101033091 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1815 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Press conference by Nicaraguan Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo, Finance Minister Emilio Pereira, Central Bank Manager Raul Lacayo, Economy and Development Minister Silvio de Franco, and Foreign Cooperation Minister Erwin Krugger, with local and foreign reporters and Danilo Lacayo, director of Information and Press of the Presidency, as moderator, at the Presidential Press and Information Office in Managua on 17 January—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted including indistinct portions]

[Antonio Lacayo] The ministers and myself will be glad to answer your questions.

[Danilo Lacayo] We are going to begin the question and answer portion. Toni Robles from CNN.

[Robles] I want to ask you two things. First, given the current world situation, what measures does the government plan to adopt to counteract the effects of the Persian Gulf conflict, what impact it will have on Nicaragua, and how is the government going to respond to this? Second, given this same situation, what hope does the Nicaraguan Government have that the European Nations, that is, those of the EC [words indistinct] Central America now that they have a conflict at their own door steps.

[Antonio Lacayo] I am going to answer the first part and then Minister Krugger will comment on possible foreign cooperation. Nicaragua already had adopted significant measures in anticipation of this conflict. First, since the beginning of September, in coordination with Petronica, the Finance Ministry, and the central government, we were able to reduce fuel consumption in Nicaragua approximately 21 percent. For more than four months we have been making meaningful fuel savings. We could say that since we began this process, as of today, we have saved the equivalent of one month's consumption, based on the consumption levels in July and August.

Second, we had made the decision to have, by 15 January, the largest fuel inventory possible for Nicaragua. In this regard, I am pleased to announce that we have achieved this goal. Today, Nicaragua has a supply of approximately 417,000 barrels of crude oil and currently a ship is being loaded with 256,000 additional barrels, in Salinas Port, Venezuela. This fuel has already been paid for and at the prices of before the conflict. This makes a total of 673,000 barrels of crude oil. Taking into account the rate of consumption we have had over the past few months, this would be equivalent to 58 days of continuous supply.

Also we have a supply of petroleum products, that is, gasoline and diesel fuel, for an additional 12 days. This means that in our country or in our possession—including the boat that is on its way—we have an approximately 60-day fuel supply. This is the largest inventory that Nicaragua has had in a long time. Simultaneously, we have also tried to have direct talks with the two most important nations—for us that is—in petroleum matters, Mexico and Venezuela. In this regard, our president and the economy minister were able to meet during the past week with both President Salinas and President Carlos Andres Perez, during the Tuxtla Gutierrez summit and the presidential inauguration in Guatemala. During these conversations, we obtained commitments from both nations to supply Nicaragua and Central America with this vital resource, without any reservations whatsoever. That is, with full guarantees that we will be supplied with fuel, regardless of the Persian Gulf conflict. We were also able to obtain credit terms that are even better than the previous terms in effect in the San Jose agreement, thereby allowing us to offset any possible strong upsurge in fuel prices.

Therefore, we believe it is important to point out now that not only were we able to make significant reductions

in our consumption in September, but that we currently have a substantial inventory. We have also obtained guarantees, during the past week, from Mexican President Salinas de Gortari and Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez that these countries will not abandon us, but will continue to supply us with fuel.

With regard to possible changes in foreign cooperation, I will yield to the economic and development minister to explain this to you.

[Krugger] To add to Minister Lacayo's remarks, the government's economic team has been meeting over the past three days to analyze the Persian Gulf situation and how this can affect our internal economy, chiefly as far as foreign cooperation, so vital for the development of the economy, is concerned. We are closely following up on cooperation with all donor countries, because we consider the situation in the Persian Gulf to be very fluid.

We believe a change in the world political and economic order is taking place. We must see how those changes develop, because the countries gathered at the United Nations have taken armed action and this has an economic impact. We must also see how this situation can have an impact on our country. We are following up on cooperation matters to establish if events could change our internal economic situation.

We are concerned that some cooperation that was under negotiation could be affected. To be specific, Iran had agreed to provide additional oil, and we were hoping to make the announcement when the transaction was finalized to renegotiate our foreign debt and obtain oil from Iran. That could be affected by the Persian Gulf conflict. Another important element is that we succeeded in concluding the renegotiation of the bilateral debt with Venezuela [seven-second break in reception] Mexico.

As I said, we are trying to follow this matter very closely to see how economic aid to Nicaragua could be affected.

[Danilo Lacayo] Marieta Flores of Channel Six.

[Flores] Mr. Lacayo, should oil prices go up, when would the government adopt emergency plans, such as a program to conserve on energy or gasoline, the fuel that is most used. Do you have an emergency plan?

[Antonio Lacayo] We have not only a 12-day supply of [word indistinct], which is the oil derivative that is used to generate electricity in our country, we have a 75-day supply. Our geothermic plants, which have been working at full capacity [words indistinct], have permitted electricity plants to work only at certain moments. This way we have been able to store bunker [a grade of refined oil], because it is not being consumed at the previous rate.

Taking into consideration the crude oil we have on hand plus the crude oil being brought on the ship that is on its way, we have a 58-day supply, and considering that we have a 75-day supply of bunker, we are talking about approximately four months, as far as electricity is concerned.

I also want to announce that because of currency devaluations, fuel prices will be adjusted at gasoline stations every Monday. I want to make it clear that prices will not be changed prior to Monday. Gasoline stations can therefore function normally. If an adjustment on gasoline and diesel prices becomes necessary, this would be done on Monday, concurrently with the adjustments made because of the currency devaluation.

We do not know now if an adjustment will be necessary immediately. Crude oil prices fluctuate based on news reaching the international market. There is no decision on adjustments now, but I wanted to state that there will be no price changes before Monday. [passage omitted including portions indistinct]

[Unidentified reporter] Minister Lacayo, we would like to know what happened to the missiles that were sent to El Salvador. Can you tell us about that?

[Antonio Lacayo] It is important to make clear the government's position on the missiles. The government's position is that those missiles belong to this government and that since they were apparently illegally removed by second-level elements of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front]. As the FMLN states in its second communique on this issue, those missiles must be returned, the same as if ten Army trucks or an Aeronica airplane had been stolen by the FMLN they would also have to be returned. All this is the property of this government and all of it would have to be returned to the Nicaraguan Government. We would like that to happen as soon as possible because we are not going to be able to continue allowing the FMLN to use Nicaragua for peaceful purposes, like we have been during the Chamorro administration. We have allowed them to use our country for peaceful purposes and they have removed property of this government, something as deadly as the missiles. Regardless of how dangerous they are, those missiles are the property of the Nicaraguan Government and the Nicaragua Government's position is that those missiles must be returned to the Nicaraguan Government, and the FMLN command has been informed of this position.

In its second communique, the FMLN admitted the possibility that those missiles could have been removed by second-level or third-level FMLN militants. The FMLN has said it would investigate the matter. The Nicaraguan Army maintains that the missiles are in FMLN hands. There is no alternative but to have those missiles returned to Nicaragua, and the sooner the better, otherwise the Nicaraguan Government will have to adopt the corresponding measures.

I beg your pardon.

[Unidentified speaker] [Words indistinct].

[Danilo Lacayo] One moment please. This is the end. I just want to conclude by quoting part of the message delivered by our president yesterday. She said that this is the moment for Nicaraguans to unite, to place the interests of the fatherland above personal or political interests, to act responsibly, and to promote brotherhood among Nicaraguan families.

Possible Fuel Price Adjustments Examined

PA2001234991 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1300 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] A high official of President Violeta Chamorro's cabinet has confirmed that the Nicaraguan Government fears that oil purchases from Iran will not take place due to the outbreak of war in the Persian Gulf.

Foreign Cooperation Minister Erwin Krugger assured that contacts with Iran had started several months ago, but the chances of concluding the purchase are very uncertain now due to the conflict in the Middle East. The Nicaraguan Government has a supply of oil guaranteed from Venezuela.

Meanwhile, Minister of the Presidency Antonio Lacayo has indicated that there is a possibility that, within the next few days, Nicaragua might adjust the prices of petroleum products. Nicaragua first, however, has to coordinate with the other Central American nations before taking such step.

Government, RN Sign Cooperation Document

PA2101153991 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1815 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government and members of the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) signed a document on 17 January whereby the government reiterates its will to comply with the agreememts signed at the time the contras were disarmed. The document also expresses bilateral support for continuing the government program.

The demobilized contras will support President Chamorro's government and will work in accordance with the Repatriation Institute, now headed by Oscar Sobalvarro, a.k.a. Commander Ruben.

The 11-point document states the following:

a. The RN will receive an office in accordance with the Repatriation Institute.

b. The demobilized contras will continue to receive technical training for reentering the country's economic life.

c. The Repatriation Institute will coordinate job application forms for the RN members.

d. The granting of pensions to widows, orphans, and RN war disabled will be evaluated jointly.

e. Identification cards for disabled persons will be issued by the CIAV-OAS [International Commission of Support and Verification- OAS] with their experts.

f. The CIAV-OAS, RN, and Repatriation Institute will coordinate their actions in finding the best way to provide food rations and medical assistance to the demobilized contras.

g. Efforts will be undertaken with the Agrarian Reform Institute and the respective agrarian reform commission to solve the lack of farmland problems.

h. The demobilized contras in Managua will contact the Mayor's Office to request low-cost housing in accordance with the projects to be carried out by the National Salvation government and the Mayor's Office.

i. President Chamorro's government guarantees the individual freedom, physical, psychic, and moral integrity, as well as personal security of the demobilized contras.

j. The RN directorate promises to immediately move out of all occupied churches and guarantees that this kind of actions, or other actions outside the law, will not take place again in the future.

Felipe Sanchez of Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo's Verification Office, Jorge Siriam of the Government Ministry, Oscar Sobalvarro, aka Ruben, of the Nicaraguan Repatriation Institute, Claudia Perez of the CIAV-OAS, Monsignor Leopoldo Brenes of the Church of Managua, and Jose Santos Hernandez and Raul Llano, representing the demobilized members of the RN, were involved in these important agreements.

Former Contras Reportedly Mobilize in North

PA2201001191 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1130 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Some 1,200 former members of counterrevolutionary forces are mobilizing in the northern part of the country. They have not yet turned in their weapons to the OAS Verification and Follow-up Commission. Captain Daniel Giron, who turned over the Molocucu Military Base to a government commission yesterday, reported the mobilization of the contras.

According to reports, these individuals, divided into groups of 20, 30, or 50 men, have several Red-Eye missiles and two cannons. The reports add that these groups have been terrorizing the inhabitants of sectors such as La Sirena and San Francisco, stealing cattle which they take to the 5th Region, and threatening to kill peasants that they consider to be supporters of the Sandinist National Liberation Front.

These individuals are reportedly being supported and encouraged by the mayors of Rio Blanco and Mulukuku, and are reportedly planning an armed attack on Mulukuku.

Missile Deal Suspects Appeal for Workers' Support

PA2001130091 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Yesterday, the four military officers involved in delivering missiles to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front asked the participants at the National Workers Front congress to support them during their trial. In an open letter read during the congress plenum, the officers asked the workers to support them so that the military courts will be flexible.

The officers, in their letter, say that they know their actions were unlawful. They stress, however, that it is unfair for some sectors to attack them because of their ideals, and to want the judges to render the maximum sentence.

The officers say that over the years they defended the people. Therefore, they are asking the people to be understanding about their concern for the suffering of the Salvadoran people.

The letter, signed by the defendants, was widely applauded by the participants at the congress.

EPS Munitions Dump Explodes Near Punta Huete

PA2001001691 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2329 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Managua, 19 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Four powerful detonations heard this afternoon in Managua were caused by the explosion of a Sandinist People's Army (EPS) magazine, which caused no casualties or important damage, military sources have stated.

The magazine exploded near Punta Huete, the most important military airport in Nicaragua, located 50 km northwest of Managua, due to a fire which started at 1430 (2030 GMT) on a nearby hill.

A military spokesman told ACAN-EFE that the Defense Ministry has appointed a commission to investigate the events, which caused alarm among the people this afternoon.

Six units of firemen in Managua and the Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport, as well as two helicopters of the Sandinist Air Force and dozens of policemen, arrived at the site to put out the fire, cordon off the area, and keep civilians out of Punta Huete.

Military sources indicate that the firemen managed to control the fire three hours after it started.

Army Explains Cause

PA2001013891 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0112 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Report from the Public Relations Office of the General Command of the Sandinist People's Army (EPS); issued in Managua on 19 January]

[Text] Today, 19 January 1991, at 1425, there was a fire in Punta Huete, northwest of Managua. This fire resulted from blazes that are constantly sparked by the summer heat. Because the area is very dry, the fire spread rapidly, reaching an ammunition depot of an air unit of the Sandinist Air Force.

EPS firemen units were able to control the fire and prevented casualties, as well as significant property damage.

Managua, 19 January 1991
Public Relations Office, EPS General Command

Panama

Endara: Husayn 'Mentally Unbalanced Dictator'

PA1801192591 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 18 Jan 91 p 16B

[Juan Pritsiolas and Carlos Vargas article]

[Text] President Guillermo Endara said on 18 January that Panama supports the actions taken by the allied coalition against Iraq. He also described President Saddam Husayn as a "mentally unbalanced dictator," whom he compared to General Manuel Antonio Noriega, who was also deposed by the United States a year ago.

Endara said: "We are not participating in the military action for the simple reason that we do not have or want an armed forces. However, as UN members, we back its resolutions and support the 28 nations" that are fighting in the Persian Gulf.

The president compared the present situation in Iraq with that of Panama a year ago when "dialogue, diplomacy, and persuasion failed with a mentally unbalanced" individual—Noriega.

The Panamanian president also expressed his "support and sympathy for the Iraqi people who have suffered because of the blind ambition" of Saddam Husayn.

Endara's opinion is that military action is the worst of all alternatives and expressed his hope that peace will prevail in the Middle East and throughout the entire world.

The president stated that Panama is calm and that there is no evidence of any actions that may cause concern. He also explained that there is permanent coordination between the security services of the country.

On the other hand, Foreign Minister Julio Linares said that it was "regrettable and disappointing" that a peaceful solution to the conflict could not be achieved.

Linares called upon all Panamanians to do their best to prevent the Panama Canal and the national territory from becoming targets of terrorist activities.

Ricardo Arias Calderon, minister of justice and government, has announced that precautionary measures have been taken to increase police surveillance in key areas in such places as the canal, the airport, and the metropolitan region. This is to prevent criminal elements from taking advantage of the present psychological mood created by the onset of war.

President Guillermo Endara described the events that have so far taken place in the Persian Gulf as a triumph of international law and of the countries that back the UN.

Endara said that the military actions have caused very few casualties to the multinational forces and that this reveals the victory of truth and law over evil.

On the other hand, U.S. Ambassador to Panama Deane Hinton described the military activity in the Persian Gulf as being a good beginning toward the liberation of Kuwait from the military forces of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

In response to questions concerning several protests related to the action initiated in the Persian Gulf, Hinton stressed that war is always something very sad.

New Group Threatens Attacks Against U.S. Bases

PA2101133191 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 21 Jan 91 p 40

[Justino Gonzalez Jr. report]

[Text] The so-called Popular Army of National Liberation, EPLN, [Ejercito Popular de Liberacion Nacional] which has claimed responsibility for a fragmentation grenade attack on the U.S. Embassy, yesterday threatened to attack U.S. military installations on the banks of the canal.

A communique sent to CRITICA LIBRE stated that the EPLN warns the public in general not to get close to the U.S. military bases because after the outbreak of war between Iraq and the multinational forces in the Persian Gulf, the bases are considered an EPLN "military target."

The so-called EPLN has been recently circulating several leaflets in which it claims responsibility for the attack on the U.S. Embassy and promises to wage an armed struggle to "liberate Panama."

The Judicial Technical Police (PTJ) began an investigation last week to find the leaders of this allegedly armed group which is threatening to stage military actions.

The communique, which carried the group's acronym, EPLN, and a logo consisting of a photograph of the late General Omar Torrijos, warns U.S. citizens not to get involved in "this confrontation, because they could be victims of reprisals."

Regarding the elections to be held at the end of January, the alleged subversive group urged "the people not to vote," describing the elections as a "trick by the government, which is a lackey of imperialism."

Responsibility Claimed for U.S. Embassy Attack

PA1901005991 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 18 Jan 91 p 10A

[Juan Pritsiolas article]

[Text] The authorities are carrying out an investigation to determine the existence of the self-styled Torrijist People's Liberation Army [Ejercito Popular de Liberacion Torrijista] (EPLT), which claimed responsibility a few hours ago for the 15 January attack on the U.S. Embassy in Panama.

An official source told EL PANAMA AMERICA that one of the U.S. bases had received a phone call in which the alleged EPLT members claimed responsibility for the M-67 grenade attack on the U.S. mission.

Meanwhile, a group of masked young men, who also identified themselves as EPLT members, claimed responsibility for the attack on the U.S. Embassy while they talked to two local reporters in the Casco Viejo neighborhood on 16 January.

Immigration Director on Terrorists, Statistics

Passport Control Discussed

PA1901004791 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 18 Jan 91 p 11

[Aneldo Arosemena report]

[Text] National Immigration Director Ruben Alvarez has reported that Palestinians are entering Panama with Israeli passports which could be false. He added that these people could be associated with the anticipated terrorist actions against U.S. military installations in our country.

"The Palestinians travel with Israeli passports and Panama's requirements for Israelis to enter the country are nominal," Alvarez stated. He also said that it is possible for Palestinian terrorists to enter Panama with Israeli passports because Arab citizens, who are hostile to Israel, live in territories occupied by Israel.

Furthermore, Alvarez noted that it is possible that the terrorist actions against U.S. interests in Panama may not be carried out by Arabs but by Latin Americans, whose features are similar to those of Panamanians.

"The terrorists could be coming in with legal Israeli passports," Alvarez said. He agreed that these people or Cubans and Central American extremists could enter the country to carry out any type of subversive movement.

"The Cubans are experts in sabotage and terrorism," the immigration director said. Regarding the Israeli passports carried by Arabs, he said: "I am making reference to the passports I have seen and which were issued by Israel. The only thing I can say is that I have seen three Israeli passports that give Palestine as place of birth and the face of the passport bearer is Arab, not Israeli." Alvarez added that Israel is responsible for the passports it issues. He said he could not prove that the three passports he saw were false but did not doubt that Palestinians could have false Israeli passports. However, he noted that he could not prove this statement either.

Asked if false passports could be distinguished from authentic ones, the immigration director said false passports could be detected but that it was difficult to do so. He added that four U.S. passports had been confiscated last week and this was evidence that the immigration inspectors, who control the country's ports of entry and departure, are becoming more proficient.

Alvarez reported that all his information has been placed at the disposal of the Panamanian government's security organizations for its study and processing. He added that the country's ports of entry have been reinforced to prevent any possible terrorist action.

Referring to the movement of Arabs in our country, Alvarez gave the following details:

Iraqi citizens: eight entered Panama and eight left in 1988; nine entered and nine left in 1989; and 10 entered and four left in 1990. He added that four more Iraqis entered Panama in 1990 but they were U.S. Army soldiers and are in U.S. military installations in Panama.

Iranian citizens: 63 entered Panama and 56 left in 1988; 75 entered and 77 left in 1989; and 63 entered and 67 left in 1990.

Saudi citizens: 96 entered Panama and 13 left in 1988; none entered and 20 left in 1989; and two entered and 13 left in 1990.

"When I say that so many Arabs 'left' the country it includes the Arabs who have legal residence in Panama. The figures I am reporting are for tourists and Arabs living in Panama," Alvarez said.

The immigration director continued detailing the movement of Arabs in Panama:

Egyptian citizens: 45 entered Panama and 33 left in 1989; 32 entered and 21 left in 1989; and 56 entered and 62 left in 1990.

Emirian citizens: one entered Panama and two left in 1988; two entered and two left in 1989; and two entered and one left in 1990.

Jordanian citizens: 187 entered Panama and 144 left in 1988 and 181 entered and 184 left in 1989 and 1990.

The immigration director noted: We also have a number of Libyans, Lebanese, and Moroccans but the amounts are statistically not dangerous.

Alvarez said that some of these Arab citizens are business executives in Colon Free Zone companies.

Concluding the official noted that surveillance of foreigners, especially Arabs, entering the country will be reinforced. He also reported the total number of people that have entered and left Tocumen Airport as follows: 265,536 people entered Panama and 193,366 left in 1988; 302,723 entered and 270,144 left in 1989; and 320,890 entered and 335,363 left in 1990.

Airport on Red Alert

PA1901185891 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 19 Jan 91 p 12

[Aneldo Arosemena report]

[Text] Since the beginning of hostilities in the Persian Gulf 72 hours ago, the Public Force has been carrying out a strict security operation at the Tocument International Airport, which is on red alert.

Tocumen International Airport authorities have reported that they have implemented the contingency plans recommended by the International Organization of Civil Aviation. Entrance to the installations has been restricted according to the airlines' flight schedules.

During the afternoon of 15 January, the terminal was on yellow alert because of the Persian Gulf situation, since then the status has been raised to red alert, which is a warning level.

There are between 800 and 1,200 passengers at the Tocumen airport on a daily basis on 250 personal or commercial flights. This reporter learned that the contingency measures were implemented hours before the war broke out, and later these measures were upgraded to red alert. The Panamanian air terminal is not exempt from complying with international regulations, and therefore, entrance to the airport has been restricted. In addition, other measures have been adopted on nearby streets and the number of vehicles that are allowed on the ramps has been reduced.

Passengers must comply with the security measures that are being implemented by the airport authorities. All bags and packages carried by passengers are being checked.

Arab-American Group Deplores Attack on Iraq

PA2001043991 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 18 Jan 91 p 13a

[Yasmina Reyes report]

[Text] The Federation of Arab-American Organizations, Fearab, has issued a communique datelined in Colon deploring the U.S. attack on Iraq and describing it as an unjustifiable invasion.

At the same time it reported that its Executive Committee, headquartered in Brasilia, Brazil, declared itself in permanent session effective today.

The Fearab communique, signed by Dr. Walid Zayed Massis, stressed that the attack on Iraq is a U.S. "attempt to make economic interests prevail over human rights."

Fearab expressed solidarity with Iraq's Arab civilian population who are "the victims of an indiscriminate attack."

In its communique, the Fearab issued a call to all the world's Arabs "and all human beings" to openly reject all the governments that are U.S. allies and demand the right to live of all the people in the Middle East.

The Arab-American group charged that Israel will take advantage of the situation to expel the Palestinian people from the occupied territories to then "leave the Palestinian land for Soviet Jewish immigrants."

In its communique, Fearab also issued a call to seek peace "under equal conditions for all involved" and maintained that an international peace conference must be held.

The Arab organization noted that "a peaceful solution to conflicts, and especially to that of the Middle East, can only be possible to the extent that the people's rights are respected, a Palestine Arab State be established in Israeli occupied territory, and the invading troops leave Iraq immediately."

Deputy Minister Explains Draft Law to Assembly

PA1801152791 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Jan 91 p 1A

[Jose Quintero de Leon report]

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Raul Mulino told members of the Legislative Assembly's Foreign Relations Commission that the Panamanian negotiating team has drafted a new Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement (MLAA) proposal, which will be presented in the near future to the U.S. Government.

Mulino said that in agreement with virtually all Panamanian sectors, the Foreign Ministry has considered it vital to maintain the principle of dual criminality and to exclude fiscal crimes from the draft agreement, in defense of the country's interests.

He was optimistic about the way the negotiations have been held. The conversations have been firm and responsible and demonstrate a willingness to secure a good treaty. Mulino, however, did not refer to the points of agreement or disagreement, because that is part of the negotiations that are being kept confidential.

For his part, Olimpo Saez, president of the Assembly Foreign Relations Commission, agreed that Panama cannot allow broad and ambiguous content in such a treaty, because it would affect the Panamanian legal system, since the United States follows an Anglo-Saxon judiciary system and ours is Latin American, based on codes.

Therefore, Panama wants to prevent the interpretation of the agreement as including crimes committed in the United States, but that are not considered crimes in Panama, Saez explained. Also, he criticized the United States wanting to turn our legal system into a means for collecting revenue from people who evade taxes there.

Vice President Ford Comments on Money Laundering

PA1801150891 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 12 Jan 91 pp 1, 3

[Yali Enrique Pitti report]

[Text] Planning and Economic Policy Minister Guillermo Ford has told EL SIGLO that, as president of the Banking Commission, he will investigate any specific charge with regard to money laundering in Panamanian banks and that, if necessary, he will close any banks involved "because we will neither participate in nor condone any illegal activities."

Guillermo Ford's statements responded to the opinions expressed by some U.S. congressmen who visited our country recently. The congressmen indicated that they were not satisfied with the Panamanian Government's policies with regard to the suppression of drug trafficking and that money laundering continues in our country.

"First, I do not know on what basis they say that there is money laundering in Panamanian banks," said the minister, who added that sometimes it is physically impossible to eliminate the drug problem, both in our country and in the United States.

However, Lawrence Coughlin, a member of the Narcotics Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, stated after his recent visit to our country that drug money laundering "continues to be a major problem for the Panamanian Banking Center."

The National Banking Commission, headed by Panama's second vice president, is currently investigating several local banks, including the Interoceanic Bank. The commission intervened with that bank due to irregularities in the handling of its accounts, which are said to include money from drug trafficking.

According to information from the Attorney General's Office, many local banks have also been investigated and approximately $20 million is frozen because it has been linked to drugs.

There are statements from agents of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, an agency dedicated to suppressing drug trafficking, that involve several local banks in the alleged laundering of profits from drug trafficking.

Currently, the Panamanian people do not know if investigations are under way with regard to charges that were made early last year.

Weapons, Ammunition Belonging to FDP Seized

PA1901191391 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 18 Jan 91 p 8-A

[Juan Pritsiolas article]

[Text] On 16 January the national police, in an action ordered by the Night Court, seized weapons and ammunition that once belonged to the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] from the Chiricana Security Agency, which is owned by Alloweden Ramon Miejdout Hernandez [name as published].

According to a report of the "A" area police station, which is under the command of Captain Armando Perez, 17 weapons were confiscated from the security agency which is located on Avenida Mexico. Seized equipment includes eight .38-caliber revolvers; two 9-mm pistols, shotguns and various types of ammunition, including some for AK-47 assault rifles.

In addition to the weapons belonging to the FDP, other weapons without their respective permits, and radio communications equipment were also found.

The owner of the security agency is in the Night Court's custody.

Argentina

Government Statement Condemns Attack on Israel

PY1901003891 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2332 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jan (TELAM)—The Argentine Government today strongly condemned the Iraqi aggression against Israel and urged Iraqi officials to abstain from actions of that nature.

In an official communique released tonight by the Foreign Ministry, the government pointed out that indiscriminate attacks on the civilian population represent a flagrant violation of the principles and rules of humanitarian international law.

Argentine Government officials also called upon the Iraqi Government to prevent further bloodshed and destruction by immediately abiding by UN Security Council Resolution No. 660, which would bring an end to hostilities in the Persian Gulf.

"Foreign Ministry Service"

In view of the aggravation of the armed conflict in the Gulf, the Foreign Ministry has decided to implement a special mechanism. Beginning today this service will answer questions regarding the situation of Argentines in that region around the clock, including weekends. According to the Foreign Ministry, relatives can ask their questions by calling this telephone number: 312-4774.

Envoy on 'Tolerant Attitude'

PY2001234891 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Jan 91 p 8

[Text] Israeli Ambassador to Argentina Shefi Yitzhaq has emphasized his country's "responsible and tolerant attitude" in the Persian Gulf war. He also noted that Saddam Husayn's attacks against Tel Aviv demonstrate that the Iraqi leader "is a man who carries out his threats and is capable of anything."

Asked about eventual reprisals that could be adopted by Israel, the ambassador said: "The limit of our tolerance will be reached when the security of our country is endangered."

The diplomat also noted: "Since the beginning of the conflict, the Israeli Government has demonstrated a responsible attitude and has remained outside the conflict, in which, in fact, we do not belong."

He stressed that "the attack on the night of 17 January once again demonstrates that Husayn not only makes threats but also carries them out." Yitzhaq noted: "A man who says he is willing to sacrifice 2 million of his citizens is capable of anything."

The ambassador said: "If the world had listened to us instead of condemning us—we should have been supported 10 years ago when we destroyed Iraq's nuclear plant—then many lives would have been saved today." The ambassador believes that "everything would have been more serious if Israel had not bombed that plant and Husayn had an atomic bomb; the entire world would have had to pay the consequences," he said.

Menem Belittles Threats, Condemns Iraqi Attacks

Says 'World Is at War'

PY1801171091 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Shortly after noon President Carlos Menem arrived at Mar del Plata airport. Menem, who was piloting a Super-Seneca plane, arrived after having left Buenos Aires around 1110. [passage omitted]

Before leaving Buenos Aires, Menem said that he did not fear the terrorist attacks that could be perpetrated in Argentina by alleged pro-Iraqi groups. He added that although the chances such attacks will take place are slim, there is always a possibility. He noted that Argentina has security forces trained to detect such activity.

Moreover, he termed the launching of Iraqi missiles on Israel another demented act carried out by Saddam Husayn. This attack, he stated, has deeply shaken the entire world. Menem said: At that moment Israel was not at war although it was fulfilling the UN Security Council resolutions. Israel was absurdly and thoughtlessly attacked. It might become another front against Iraq. [passage omitted]

President Menem also voiced his satisfaction over the fact that at dawn today the Senate approved the draft bill authorizing Argentine troops to grant logistic support to the allied troops in the Persian Gulf. He added: I think it is an attitude that is in keeping with the world developments. [passage omitted]

The president also said that should the allied troops need more support, as long as it is only to consolidate and strengthen the embargo imposed on Iraq, or measures of logistic support nature, there would be no problem in sending Argentine troops. Nevertheless he that the subject would have to be discussed at the cabinet level, and all Argentine sectors would have to be consulted, especially the military community. Should it engage in war, however, then we need express authorization from the national Congress.

Menem noted that at this moment the world is at war. The UN implemented this measure to free Kuwait. From this point of view, those countries supporting the United Nations are not neutral.

Menem made this statement at the Jorge Newbery Airport shortly before leaving for Mar del Plata.

Views Possible War 'Profit'

PY1901164691 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1028 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Mar del Plata, 19 Jan (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem has stated that the regrettable situation in the Persian Gulf could improve, expedite, and help Argentina's stability.

Menem said: I condemn war. Nobody benefits from war, and in the end the winner's body collapses exhausted on top of the loser's body. However, if you ask me if Argentina could profit from this crisis, I would say yes.

During a news conference yesterday at the presidential bungalow in Chapadmalal, Menem went on to explain that one of the serious problems of war is the shortage of food, which is something Argentina has. The other problem would be fuel, which Argentina also has.

For some time now we have been supplying fuel to Paraguay in compliance with an agreement signed with its president. We also supply fuel to Uruguay and Chile, and two days ago we offered fuel to Brazil should it need it. We have enough to cover our own needs and help our neighboring countries. [passage omitted]

Confers With President Bush

PY2001210091 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1026 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Mar del Plata, 20 Jan (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem had a telephone conversation with his U.S. colleague, George Bush, from the Chapadmalal bungalow [presidential seaside retreat]. Menem told Bush: I want you to know that you can count on the Argentine Government if there is anything else we can do. He also ratified Argentina's solidarity within the framework of the conflictive situation in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

After his talk with Bush, Menem met briefly with the national media, when he the Argentine position regarding the Persian Gulf conflict. [sentence as received]

He stated that Argentina is not neutral. We have not asked Congress to approve a decision for the Argentine vessels to remain in or return from the Gulf, he noted. Therefore, we cannot go any farther than the draft law we have submitted. The Senate has already made its decision, and now the Chamber of Deputies has to give its answer, he stated.

He reiterated: I cannot tolerate war. Nobody benefits from a war, and at the end the winner's body collapses exhausted on top of the loser's body. If you ask me if Argentina could profit from this crisis, I would say yes, he stressed.

Menem said: Argentina could profit from the war. This situation could help our economy, as happened during World War II. There are journalists here who are talking and crying because we sent vessels to the Gulf. They must not forget that General Juan Peron ordered a break in relations and entered the war on the side of the Axis powers in 1945.

Anyway, Menem insisted that he does not tolerate wars and noted that the crisis that has been unleashed is regrettable. [passage omitted]

[In a related item, Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish at 1930 GMT on 20 January reports: "President Carlos Menem confirmed this afternoon that he spoke with President George Bush on 19 January, noting: I told the U.S. chief of state that I would speak with the Syrian president if he so desired.

"Commenting on Bush's statements and the possibility that Israel may react to the Iraqi attacks, Menem said: If this reaction occurs, I would have to ask Syria to remain within the coalition of allied countries.

"Menem made these remarks just before he left Mar del Plata."]

Views Possibility of Terrorism

PY2001214691 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1836 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Mar del Plata, 20 Jan (TELAM)—Commenting on Saddam Husayn's order to attack in any way all the countries involved in the coalition against Iraq, President Carlos Menem noted: This confirms two things that I have maintained for some time now. First is the madness of this man, and second is his impotence in face of the superiority of the combined UN forces.

Menem added: To use this type of language, to pretend that Muslims, because he is a Muslim, are going to follow his directives to carry out terrorism in other parts of the world, is something only a madman would do. We must not be afraid....

Asked about the effect this call could have in our country by journalists at Chapadmalal, Menem indicated that this sort of thing has happened in the past during other times. Not so very long ago the Radicals had to impose a state of siege due to bombings, and that state of siege lasted for some days. One cannot reject an incident of this type, he said.

Asked about remarks made by Radical Deputy Federico Storani to the effect that we have entered the international order with the rank of corporal at the 14th level, the president said: There is no answer. What are you going to say to him? They [the Radicals] have destroyed Argentina. There is no reason to get into an argument with the people responsible for the disaster that led Alfonsin to abandon the government.

Regarding the situation in the Persian Gulf, the chief of state indicated: If you follow the evolution of this war,

you must take into account what has been said by several countries that are seriously committed along the Iraqi borders. [passage omitted]

Willing To Visit Syria

PY2101133891 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1139 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Jan (EFE)—Argentine President Carlos Menem has stated that he is willing to go to Syria to confer with his Syrian counterpart, Hafiz al-Asad, if Syria tries to break away from the multinational alliance that is fighting against Iraq in the Persian Gulf.

In remarks published today by the Buenos Aires press, Menem said: "If necessary, I would not have any problem with making a trip to hold a dialogue. Argentina is willing to cooperate in every way it can to promote peace."

Menem, who is of Syrian background, is the only Latin American leader who has deployed warships to the Persian Gulf to contribute to implement the UN blockade against Iraq to force it to pull out of Kuwait.

Protesters March on Congress; Rally Near Embassy

PY2101190891 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1210 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Jan (NA)—Last night some 4,000 followers of the Movement Toward Socialism, the Workers Party, and the People's Intransigent Movement marched in front of the Palace of Congress protesting the government decision to send troops to the Persian Gulf area.

The demonstrators were joined by members of the Permanent Assembly for Human Rights (APDH), the asociations of relatives of missing people, the Radical Women's Organization, and Palermo neighbors.

Watched by a strong police guard, at 2100 the demonstrators at 2100 began to march around the Congress building waving banners with expressions like "the people will not starve to pay for the missiles against Iraq," "let our ships return," and "who does Congress work for?"

Yesterday afternoon, some 300 Communist Party members marched from Plaza Italia along Sarmiento Avenue down to the U.S. Embassy.

The demonstrators could only get witin 50 meters of the embassy since the building's sidewalks and the nearby small square were surrounded by tanks and numerous policemen. There were practically as many policemen as demonstrators.

The demonstrators carried signs reading "Immediate withdrawal of trops from the Gulf," "30,000 times no to aggression"—this number alluded to the missing—"no to the genocidal war," and "we only want peace." Several U.S. flags were burned.

Political Sectors React to Gulf War Developments

PY1801180091 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] The Radical Civic Union [UCR] national board today expressed its support for the Israeli State and people, victims of the attack perpetrated by Iraqi forces.

The UCR issued a communique signed by its president, Raul Alfonsin, stating that Saddam Husayn has launched this provocation with the sole purpose of concealing his expansionist policy under the pretext of a so-called holy war.

The communique states that these developments deeply move the UCR, especially considering the Jewish peoples' background, and that the attack deserves to be strongly repudiated.

Moreover, Socialist Popular Party deputy Guillermo Estevez Boero, labeled the war unleashed in the Middle East irrational, immoral, and absolutely irresponsible. He also requested the immediate withdrawal of Argentine troops from the theater of operations.

The Intransigent Party [PI] national board has issued a communique repudiating the hostile actions in the Persian Gulf and criticizing U.S. Government policy.

The PI states that the United States has started to write a new chapter of its history which is plagued by brutal attacks on the people, attacks which the United States now conceals behind the cynical pretext of preserving international order.

Neuquen Governor Guillermo Salvatori said that the war in the Persian Gulf represents World War III, and he regretted the fact that humankind was unable to find a solution to disagreements, no matter how great the interests at stake.

Cavallo Condemns Iraqi Position on POW's

PY2201011391 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0038 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Jan (TELAM)—Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo today condemned Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's decision to use POW's as human shields, and he stressed that that decision violates international law and the Geneva Convention.

During the course of a news conference at the Foreign Ministry tonight, Cavallo reported on the evolution of the war in the Persian Gulf. He also announced President Carlos Menem's upcoming trip to Switzerland, where he will participate in a global economic forum in the city of Davos. The foreign minister also announced that the Rio Group foreign ministers will meet on 28 January to discuss the war that has been unleashed in the Persian Gulf.

As for Argentina's position on the conflict, Cavallo said that in the same way we repudiated the Iraqi attack on

Israel, the Argentine Government today condemns Husayn's decision to use POW's as human shields. The minister emphasized his assertion that the Iraqi president is violating international law and the Geneva Convention with regard to the POW's, and he stated that this is inadmissible.

He reiterated the Argentine Government's desire to give all the support it is asked for within the framework of the UN Security Council resolutions, and he reiterated that our vessels are operating in the Gulf and are restricted to maritime patrols to enforce the trade embargo.

After emphasizing his confidence that Congress, on 23 January, will approve the draft law that has already been approved by the Senate in which the executive branch is requesting permission to give logistical support, Cavallo revealed that his ministry is concentrated on protecting the Argentines that are in the conflict area.

Asked about a possible mediation in the conflict by Menem, the minister said that the chief of state had spoken with the Syrian president to give him his opinion that it was Israel that was attacked, and this is why we hope Syria and the other Arab countries in the coalition will maintain their positions, even if Israel counterattacks.

He added that the government has still not decided to send more vessels to expand the group that is already in the area of the conflict; he said that the Navy has materiel ready for eventualities when he was asked about the possibility of more Argentine forces leaving soon.

During his news conference, Cavallo also announced that next week, between Tuesday and Saturday, Menem will travel to Switzerland to participate in a world economic forum in the city of Davos. In principle, the presidential trip will last [words indistinct]. Economy Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez will accompany the president because Cavallo will be participating in the Rio Group meeting in Caracas, Venezuela, on 28 January.

Cavallo said that during Menem's visit to Switzerland, an agreement on the protection and guarantee of investments will be signed [words indistinct] the reopening of export credits for Argentina.

Security Tightened at Buenos Aires Airport

PY1801172891 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] The National Border Police, in charge of security measures at airports and ports, have tightened security and doubled its personnel at the Jorge Newbery airport to prevent possible attacks in view of the Argentine Government's stance regarding the Persian Gulf conflict.

The security forces have doubled their personnel, increased their day and night patrols, and reinforced protection at strategic points at the airport.

A larger number of border policemen can be seen in the passanger area, and stricter control of passangers is being carried out with special detectors. The security forces are carrying out selective, thorough spotchecks with the help of dogs trained to detect bombs.

It is recommended that people accompanying passengers not remain longer than necessary at the airport and avoid going if at all possible.

Second Plane Sent To Evacuate Citizens in Gulf

PA2001153791 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1343 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Jan (EFE)—The government of President Carlos Menem dispatched a second plane to Rome today to evacuate Argentine and third country citizens from the Persian Gulf war zone.

In a communique, the Argentine Foreign Ministry reported that the plane, an Air Force Boeing 707, will contribute to the evacuation task undertaken by a C-130 Hercules, which had been sent previously.

In the last few days, at least 50 Argentines, Uruguayans, Chileans, and Spaniards have been evacuated from Saudi Arabia, Syria, and other Middle East countries by the government of Buenos Aires.

The communique also said that the two Argentine ships deployed in the Gulf will continue to operate normally in patrol missions aimed at enforcing the UN embargo against the government of Baghdad.

The Foreign Ministry communique also expressed the great concern of Argentina, the only Latin American country involved in the Persian Gulf war, over the Iraqi attacks against Israel, and it reiterated Argentina's condemnation of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Argentina has beefed up security guards around airports and foreign diplomatic missions to prevent possible attacks by pro-Iraqi or Palestinean groups.

President Menem has ordered the Argentine participation in the conflict, despite the opposition of the population and the main political opposition forces who are demanding that the ships, which have been in the Gulf region since October, 1990 return.

Saudi Ambassador Comments on Gulf Conflict

PY2001232091 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1208 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] Bahia Blanca, 20 Jan (TELAM)—Saudi Ambassador to Argentina Shaykh Fu'ad Ahmad al-Nazir has maintained that Saddam Husayn's decision to not withdraw from Kuwait will not change no matter what maneuvers are carried out. There is no way to get him to see reason, he said, stressing that the Iraqi president wants to be the leader of the Middle East.

The ambassador maintains that the situation has come about because of three factors—politics, economics, and Husayn's personality—but the human factor is the determining one. The ambassador noted: Everything could have been resolved within the Arab family. We tried again and again, but Husayn did not accept anything; he did not want to accept anything. His personality makes these efforts impossible, the ambassador noted.

Regarding the economic factors, Al-Nazir explained that Husayn had just come out of an eight-year war and was broke. He had 1 million soldiers on his hands but no money, so he started his fight with Kuwait, ourselves, and OPEC to demand an increase in the price of oil, the ambassador said.

The Saudi envoy continued, stating that Husayn then accused Kuwait of stealing its oil. He said he was not going to pay the debt to that country, and he then said he would not pay the 34 million debt [currency not specified] he owed us, Al-Nazir noted.

The diplomat, whose remarks are published in today's issue of LA NUEVA PROVINCIA, also stated: There could have been a resolution within the economic context. We could have talked. We would have helped him if he had listened to us. The money was not the most important factor, the ambassador stressed.

He added: Husayn used a Kuwaiti request for help as a pretext for the invasion. It has now been five months since the invasion and no one in Kuwait has gone over to Husayn, no one has accepted his Presidency within this new regime. On the contrary, Kuwait was annexed. However, if Kuwait belongs to him as he says, then how is it possible that he is destroying it as he is, the ambassador asked.

The ambassador stressed that the Iraqi president intended to become the leader of the Arabs and the leader in the Middle East. Asked about the existence of a leftist Arab ideological component, Al-Nazir indicated that the interpretations of this group are mistaken.

In a world that is witnessing the end of the East-West dispute, he began his aggression just when Baker is in Moscow and Thatcher was at Camp David, the ambassador pointed out.

Al-Nazir also noted that Husayn is calling for a holy war even though he has not been very religious in the past. The Ba'th Party, founded by Michel Aflaq, a Syrian Christian, is atheist. A holy war can be called by a country with an Islamic constitution. What he did to Kuwait is not Islamic; rather, his actions violate Islamic principles, the ambassador noted.

Concluding, the ambassador stated that he does not believe the United States will stay on as a kind of owner when the war in the region is over. He also noted that PLO leader Yasser 'Arafat ended up playing a losing card, stressing that this conflict does not favor the Palestinian cause.

Iraqi Ship Said Loading Fuel at YPF Refinery

PY1801203091 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1930 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] La Plata, 18 Jan (NA)—An Iraqi-flagged oil tanker is loading fuel at a YPF [Government Oil Deposits] refinery in the port of Ensenada, port sources confirmed today. The 40,000-ton tanker with its Polish crew has been docked at the port loading gas oil since yesterday.

Port sources confirmed that the ship—the Al-Deerah—is expected to depart tomorrow morning at 0800.

The operation, which was authorized by the Foreign Ministry and the YPF Foreign Trade Office, was carried out by the Argosian Company, which is headquartered in Buenos Aires. The value of the transaction and the amount of fuel sold have not been revealed.

Tanker Identified as Kuwaiti

PY1801220291 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2113 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jan (TELAM)—The Foreign Ministry issued a communique this afternoon to clarify that the Al-Deerah, a tanker operating at Argentine ports, flys the flag of Kuwait, not Iraq, as has been reported by the media.

The Foreign Ministry reported in a communique that the Kuwaiti-flagged ship was authorized to load at Argentine ports following a formal request from the legitimate government of Kuwait and after confirming that the ship is under the control of the Kuwaiti Government and that its destination is a U.S. port.

The communique adds that the operation was allowed since it does not constitute a violation of the embargo against Iraq as established last year by UN Security Council Resolution No. 661.

Bolivia

Various Sectors React to Persian Gulf Conflict

PY1901030091

[Editorial Report] La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish at 1100 GMT on 18 January carries 12 minutes of reportage on reactions to the Persian Gulf conflict from various Bolivian sectors.

The station carries a four-minute report stating that political, religious, civic, and labor groups on 17 January condemned the "warmongering policies" of the United States and Iraq, which endanger the economic stability and social peace of Third World countries. Deputy Jorge Medina of the Conscience of the Fatherland Party is reported to have said that the history of oil has always been a history of the blood of humankind and that the current situation confirms this thesis.

Comments by Deputy Leopoldo Lopez of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left are also noted. He points out that the Persian Gulf conflict, if it lasts for a long time, will have a serious economic effect on Bolivia. The announcer reports that Lopez regrets that a peaceful solution has not been found to meet Iraq's demand for Kuwait, which it claims as a province, and points out Lopez' statement that "Bolivians share this same feeling in terms of Bolivian territory occupied by Chile."

The Bolivian Labor Federation (COB) on behalf of all Bolivian workers, condemns the "United Nations' peace-seeking policy which favors the great powers." The COB is reported to have stated that the Bolivian people "deeply regret" the war in the Persian Gulf and "condemn the aggressive attitude of the U.S. Government and its main allies." The COB also condemns the attitude of the United Nations which, instead of trying to solve the conflict through negotiations, has "assumed a warmongering position which has encouraged the United States."

The station carries a one-minute report which notes that the Bolivian Government has given assurances that the price of gasoline will not be readjusted again despite the war in the Middle East.

A two-minute report from Oruro states that labor union and student sectors have expressed their position on the Persian Gulf conflict. The Oruro branch of the COB is reported to have issued a communique criticizing the U.S. initiative to start the war. It condemns the "criminal attitude of the multinational forces" which will greatly affect Third World countries. "The COB also demands that the U.S. ambassador leave the country," the report states.

A two-minute item from Santa Cruz de la Sierra reports the reaction of the General Trade Union Confederation of Peasant Workers of Bolivia, CSUTCB, which directly charges the United States with "provoking a war that endangers humankind." CSUTCB leader Lidia Flores condemns the use of force to solve the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and charges the United States with being "the world's policeman." The report also notes that a representative of the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement of the Left has said the U.S. President is "arrogant" and the Iraqi leader "stubborn," holding them responsible for leading the world to a "catastrophe." The representative also notes that this war will increase the economic imbalance between rich and poor countries.

A three-minute report from Sucre states that Bolivian officials, diplomatic representatives, and the Chuquisaca archbishop have voiced their sorrow over the Persian Gulf crisis. The Chuquisaca archbishop is quoted as saying that the entire world expected another solution to the problem. Javier Ledesma, executive secretary of the COB branch in Sucre, is reported to have said that "the war in the Persian Gulf is the exclusive responsibility of the U.S. Government, which is trying to obtain more economic income from Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil. It is regretable that the UN, instead of being instrumental in establishing peace in the world, has in this case been following orders from the U.S. Government." He notes that this war will seriously affect the economy of Third World countries and the environment in general if Iraq and the United States carry out all their threats. The report points out his conclusion that Bolivian workers should not agree with the war because "we know that this is a business of the rich, of those who manufacture weapons or who just want to achieve hegemony."

CNPZ Links With Regional Guerrillas Revealed

PY1801143691 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 10 Jan 91 p 7

[Excerpt] (ANF) [Fides News Agency]—The subversives involved in the CNPZ-ELN [Nestor Paz Zamora Commission-National Liberation Army] case do not know who killed businessman Jorge Londsdale on 5 December 1990, when a police commando decided to rescue him alive. The terrorists said they had orders to kill Londsdale in case of a police attack, something that really happened.

The terrorists revealed that their subversive group had received financial aid and military counseling from the Peruvian MRTA [Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement] and that the CNPZ had established incipient relations with guerrilla movements in Colombia, Chile, and El Salvador.

This information was obtained from statements made by the CNPZ members who were arrested during the police operations and investigations of Londsdale's kidnapping and the two terrorist attacks that took place. "The statements are included in the judicial police reports on the case that is being heard by Penal Judge Antonio Santa-Maria, who ordered that the suspects testify themselves in court in the next few hours. [no closing quotation mark published] [passage omitted]

Said Attempting To Regroup

PY1801144491 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 13 Jan 91 p 7

[Text] (ANF) [Fides News Agency]—According to the National Police intelligence services, there is evidence that "some members of the CNPZ [Nestor Paz Zamora Commission] are trying to reorganize the terrorist group in Bolivia," National Police Director General Felipe Carvajal Badani has reported.

"We are investigating this information, and we think some CNPZ members are trying to regroup in some parts of the country," the police chief said.

He added that there is evidence that some CNPZ members are trying to again destabilize the normal life in the country and they "intend to mark their presence" through some acts.

Gen. Carvajal ruled out the existence of "terrorist headquarters or training centers" as mentioned by some media in the past few days.

He reported that the state security organizations has not yet detected any new subversive actions or expressions by the CNPZ members" in Bolivia.

In any case, Gen. Carvajal stated, the National Police and all the security organizations specializing in antiterrorist actions continue working to eradicate "those terrorist elements" which upset the population last year.

Brazil

Itamaraty Deems Iraqi Attack on Israel 'Serious'

Coalition Split Said Unlikely

PY1801164691 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1500 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Today the Foreign Ministry is expected to formally deplore the Iraqi attack on Israel. We have a live relay by reporter Alvaro Pereira from Itamaraty, in Brasilia:

[Pereira] Itamaraty does not believe that the attack on Israel—even if followed by a proportionate Israeli retaliation—will divide the allied forces. I have just spoken with Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek, and he said that there is a basic and fundamental difference between the attacks on Saudi Arabia, which was already involved in the war, and the attack on Israel, which was outside of the war.

Itamaraty considers the attack on Israel serious. Itamaraty should issue a formal statement on it today, deploring the Iraqi attack on Israel and the fact that the theater of operations has been expanded.

We now have a last-minute report. Because of the attacks, the administrative personnel of the Brazilian Embassy in Tel Aviv have been transferred to Cairo, Egypt. Only Ambassador (Asdrubal Olysea), secretary (Joao Batista Lanari), and a military attache now remain in Tel Aviv.

Attack Deplored

PY1801201091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1939 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Brasilia, 18 Jan (EFE)—According to a note released by the Brazilian Foreign Ministry, the Brazilian Government today deplored the Iraqi attack on Israel, asking for moderation "in view of the provocative military actions."

Referring to the missile attack against Israeli targets launched by Iraq on Thursday night, the brief communique states that Brazil hopes that "no further aggressive acts of this nature will take place."

The Foreign Ministry expressed its hope for a quick resolution to the war compatible with the UN Security Council resolutions demanding the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

Palestinian Support Group Bombs Mormon Church

PY1901204091 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2018 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Anapolis (Goias State), Brazil, 19 Jan (AFP)—Police sources reported today that a self-styled Palestine Support Group [Grupo de Apoyo a Palestina—GAP] threw two homemade incendiary bombs at a Mormon Church in Anapolis (Goias State) headed by U.S. missionaries.

GAP claimed responsibility for the attack, which took place early in the morning of 19 January, through several phone calls to local radio stations. An anti-U.S. message was written on a poster left in front of the Anapolis church. The town has a large number of Arab residents.

Police have begun investigations based on a report by an eyewitness.

The ANDA press agency of Brasilia has reported that the PLO's representative in Brazil, Ahmad Sobeh, has requested that this and any other attack "that may be carried out in Brazil in the name of alleged Palestine organizations" be "thoroughly investigated" to "clearly identify the real attackers."

Porto Alegre Synagogue Bombed; No Injuries

PY2101000191 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2309 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] Porto Alegre, Brazil, 20 Jan (AFP-NA)—Police have reported that a homemade bomb was thrown at a synagogue in Porto Alegre, capital of the Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul, on 20 January. The explosion caused some light damage.

On 15 January the state government set up constant police protection for the capital's six synagogues.

Maximiliam Glaser, president of the attacked synagogue, attributed the attack to "criminals" and refused to link it to the war in the Gulf.

According to police, Nader Bejar, a Palestine community representative in the state, stressed that "Palestinians have absolutely no interest in attacking descendants of Israelis." There are some 5,000 persons of Arab and Palestinian origin in the state.

On 18 January two homemade fire bombs were thrown at a Mormon Church managed by North Americans in Anapolis (Goias State). A self-proclaimed Palestine Support Group (GAP) claimed responsibility for the attack.

Argentina's Menem Offers Surplus Petroleum

PY1901011091 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Presidential Spokesman Claudio Humberto Rosa e Silva has stated that, in addition to a stock of 42 million barrels of petroleum, Brazil can also count on Argentine aid.

Argentine President Carlos Menem has offered President Fernando Collor de Mello some of Argentina's surplus petroleum. Brazil consumes 1 million barrels per day and imports almost half that amount.

Federal Service Fuel Quota Reduced 25 Percent

PY2201023691 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] The commission created to supervise implementation of the program designed to rationalize fuel consumption has just approved a resolution proposed by Federal Administration Secretary Joao Santana establishing a 25-percent reduction in the fuel quota for federal public services.

The measure affects the central and decentralized federal public administration without deterring from activities linked to production and the rendering of essential services.

Support for Collor Said Decreasing Slightly

PY1901111491 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Jan 91 p A-6

[Summary] A DataFOLHA poll conducted on 8 January, in which 5,310 people were interviewed, indicates that the number of people who believe that the Collor administration's performance is good to excellent has decreased from 26 to 22 percent. The number of people who believe the administration's performance is regular increased from 45 to 48 percent, while the number of those who believe that the performance is bad to terrible has increased from 27 to 29 percent.

Collor Meets Governors-Elect; Calls For Support

PY1801133491 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Luis Augusto Mendonca report from Planalto Palace—live]

[Excerpts] President Fernando Collor today received Bahia Governor-Elect Antonio Carlos Magalhaes, Sao Paulo Governor-Elect Luis Antonio Fleury Filho, Minas Gerais Governor-Elect Helio Garcia, and Pernambuco Governor-Elect Joaquim Francisco at Planalto Palace. President Collor asked the governors-elect to support a broad national accord.

The most common word at Planalto Palace this afternoon was accord. Each one of the visiting governors-elect met with President Collor for 30 minutes. During those 30 minutes they exchanged suggestions. At the end of the meetings, they all left with the certainty that a broad national accord is necessary, above any other factor, including the Persian Gulf war. [passage omitted]

They concluded that it is time to put political party differences aside, get ready to work, and prevent the possible effects of a recession, as Governor-Elect Fleury Filho said. [passage omitted]

Fleury Filho also said he will contact the Sao Paulo political, entrepreneurial, and labor union leaders to find alternatives that may help the country overcome the economic crisis.

Luiz Wellisch Installed as Finance Secretary

PY1901110891 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Jan 91 p B7

[Summary] Yesterday morning, in a ceremony attended by Economy Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello, Luiz Fernando Wellisch was installed as national finance secretary, replacing Geraldo Jose Gardenalli. Temporarily, Wellisch will continue to occupy his previous position as Economy Ministry chief of staff.

Chile

Aylwin Concerned Over Possible Effects of War

PY1901125691 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Graciela Contreras report from Temuco]

[Excerpt] President Patricio Aylwin has expressed concern over the possibility that the Persian Gulf war might be prolonged and that it could therefore cause problems to our economy. The president made this statement during a tour of southern Chile that he began on 16 January and that is scheduled to end in Temuco today.

The president engaged in various activities and contacted several sectors of the community. In Valdivia, while evaluating the results of his work, he was asked about the Middle East conflict. Aylwin said that the government is not considering the possibility of sending Chilean troops to the area because not even the UN has made such request. He said that our support will be in the form of cooperation or humanitarian help.

Aylwin reiterated that for some months the country will be able to be quite calm about the future, in connection with the economic repercussions of the war. However, he added:

[Begin Aylwin recording] On the other hand, and taking into account possible developments, I am mostly concerned about the fact that if the conflict is prolonged, the situation of the world economy might be unfavorable to our exports and our foreign trade in general. This does not depend only on the measures to be adopted by the government but on conditions that are beyond our

control. We are closely following the situation. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Ambassadors to Israel, Saudi Arabia To Return

PY1901012091 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma has confirmed that last night he authorized the Chilean ambassadors to Israel and Saudi Arabia to leave their respective diplomatic missions due to the danger in those areas. Ambassador to Jordan Nelson Haddad was told to evacuate his family, which he had not yet done. Ambassador to Israel Marcos Alvarez and Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Jorge Tarud will reportedly stay in Tunisia for a few hours and then travel to Cyprus or Chile.

The foreign minister reported that (?a family) will leave through Syria through the foreign migration committee.

The Chilean Embassy in Jordan is arranging the departure of a group of Chilean television journalists who are still in the area. The journalists will be sent to a safe area—that is, a neighboring country—and will then travel to our country.

Arms Sales to Saudis Reportedly Under Study

PY1901223491 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2202 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Santiago de Chile, 19 Jan (TELAM-PL)—A high-ranking Chilean Government official confirmed today that a request for weapons sales to Saudi Arabia is being analyzed. Chilean Interior Minister Enrique Krauss has noted that this type of sale has to be examined carefully.

Deputy Requests Investigation

PY2101183091 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Carlos Dupre, Chamber of Deputies first vice president, has said that the chamber should investigate Cardoen weapons sales to countries involved in the Persian Gulf War. He said that a committee should be assigned for the investigation.

[Begin Dupre recording] Chile is not a neutral country in this conflict because it voted on the relevant UN resolution, but we cannot be belligerent. I believe this businessman should not be allowed to sell weapons as he intends. I also believe that the situation is becoming much more complicated and that the Chamber of Deputies must check on what is occurring to businessman Cardoen. There have been reports that a society [not further identified] seized one of his helicopters in Miami because he had been illegally selling bomb fuses to Iraq. The bomb fuses were being sold as washing machine spare parts. This situation must be investigated and will undoubtedly be linked to the controversy you have mentioned. [end recording]

Minister Views Arms Requests

PY2201015691 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Defense Minister Patricio Rojas said at La Moneda Palace this afternoon that given the circumstances, the request by the Cardoen arms manufacturing company to export weapons to the area of conflict will be pending for a certain time. Rojas said that two requests have been submitted to the National Mobilization Directorate. One of these requests deals with the export of cartridges manufactured by Famae [Army Ordnance] to the United Arab Emirates. The other request was made by the Cardoen company to export cluster bombs to Saudi Arabia.

[Begin recording] [Rojas] The two have not yet been approved. Both are being considered, and we will make the government's decision public in due time. I believe a decision will not be made in the short term, considering Chilean society's position on supporting a peaceful solution to the Persian Gulf crisis.

[Unidentified reporter] Have you considered the investigations into the Cardoen company being conducted in the United States, Germany, and Great Britain?

[Rojas] We have information on this matter, but it affects the private Cardoen company, owned by a Chilean businessman. It does not have to do with authorization for the registry, export, and import of weapons, which corresponds to the Defense Ministry. [end recording]

He said he does not expect to meet with Carlos Cardoen, the owner of the arms manufacturing company. Rojas stressed that the decision to allow or to forbid the export of weapons is still pending and will continue this way as long as the development of events is being analyzed.

Asked about his opinion on Santiago Archbishop Monsignor Carlos Oviedo's stand on the matter, he said:

[Begin recording] [Rojas] I fully agree with Chilean society in its decision to support peace, but I want to make clear that the government advocates the resolution passed by the UN Security Council, which, as all of you know, first tried to reach a peaceful solution. When it did not achieve this objective, it authorized the declaration of war to ensure international law is respected and to restore Kuwaiti territory to its legitimate government and to its people.

[Reporter] That means the government supports the war.

[Rojas] This means we support the UN Security Council resolution. This has to be carefully read to realize what are we supporting at the political and diplomatic levels. We are not involved in the military area at all since the principle is that Chile is not going to participate in the UN-ordered blockade, even less in the war. [end recording]

False Rocket Threats Against Israeli Facilities

PY2001233691 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2258 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] Santiago, 20 Jan (EFE)—Chilean police were mobilized twice today following anonymous reports that rocket attacks would be carried out against the Israeli Embassy and the residence of that country's ambassador, Daniyel Moqedi, both of which are located in the Las Condes residential district in the Chilean capital.

An individual claiming to be the spokesman for the ultraleftist Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR) called the LA EPOCA newspaper just before midnight (0300 GMT) to announce the attack on the embassy. The individual said the rocket would be automatically activated within 20 minutes, in which time the embassy was to be evacuated.

Expert Carabineros (Chilean militarized police) personnel thoroughly searched the entire area until it was clear that it had been a false alarm. The Israeli Embassy was empty at the time.

At 0900 (1200 GMT) police received a report that a rocket would be fired at the residence of Ambassador Daniyel Moqedi within a few minutes. Police found a simulated rocket made of a plastic tube and some FPMR pamphlets near the residence.

Communist Party Statement Blames U.S. for War

PY2101121891 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] The Communist Party of Chile [PCCh] has demanded that the government take the initiative to stop the Persian Gulf war.

[Begin unidentified spokesman recording] The Chilean Government has repeatedly stated its support for UN Resolution (?698) but has not commented on the fact that the implementation of this resolution, and U.S. impositions, have led to the war. We demand that the government present an initiative to the international community and make a call to Latin American countries to put an end to this war. [end recording]

The PCCh criticized the government's repeated support for UN resolutions leading to the war and the handling of information by the United States. The PCCh also denounced the government's apparent reluctance to reject Cardoen's petition to sell arms to Saudi Arabia. The PCCh concluded by stating that its followers will join peace demonstrations in Chile and abroad.

Vehicle Restrictions To Save Fuel Announced

PY1801163091 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Excerpt] The Transportation Ministry will implement measures aimed at restricting the use of private vehicles and buses in the entire country, especially in the cities. This is aimed at significantly reducing gasoline and diesel consumption. This is one of the main measures adopted by the government to deal with the consequences of the war in the Persian Gulf.

Transportation Minister Sergio Molina, who is acting as coordinator, announced the measures. He said that starting on 21 January, daily vehicle restrictions will be implemented on the basis of two digits in the license plate number. The restrictions will be valid in the urban areas of all cities in the country. Cargo vehicles that carry more than 1,500 kg will be exempted. The measure will be enforced Monday through Friday. The hours will be from 0630 to 2030 except Friday when the restrictions will be in force only until 1800.

Carabineros will enforce the measure with the necessary flexibility to prevent unnecessary inconvenience to those who are enjoying their vacations. Minister Molina said that he expects the people to react with responsibility and understanding to ensure the effectiveness of the measure. He called on the population to heighten their awareness of this situation. [passage omitted]

Aylwin Disappointed With Senate Reform Decision

PY1801151291 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Excerpt] President Patricio Aylwin reiterated in Valdivia his disappointement over the Senate's failure to approve the municipal reform bill. We have this report by Graciela Contreras:

[Contreras] The president stated categorically that disregard for the Constitution will lead to the same situation of the past, adding that force lends victory to the stronger. He made this statement in a speech he delivered [words indistinct] of this town, at the coliseum. Aylwin could not conceal his pain and disappointment over the Senate's failure to approve the Constitutional reform bill for restructuring municipal organizations. In this regard, Aylwin said that this decision reveals political inconsistency. In view of this new situation, the president admitted the possibility of calling for a plebiscite, but he said that he has not yet lost hope of reaching an agreement on constitutional reform. He noted that there is willingness to submit the bill once again in March, adding that the people's will—which will be clearly expressed—will show to those who have voted against the bill that they adopted a mistaken attitude. He then mentioned the possibility of a referendum.

[Begin Aylwin recording] I tell you that if the Constitution allowed it, I would not hesitate to call for a plebiscite because I am sure that 80 percent of Chileans want to democratize municipalities and want mayors who are elected by the people. [applause]

Yet the Constitution does not provide for a plebiscite in this case. I cannot call a plebiscite. I swore that I would respect the Constitution. I do not like many parts of the Constitution, but the Constitution is the basic rule of

coexistence, and those who shout and believe that the Constitution can be violated are wrong because violating the Constitution will lead us back to the past. Force gives victory to the stronger, and this means dictatorship and oppression. [end recording]

[Contreras] In his strongly worded speech, the president said that each problem has its own solution, and that if one has a clear mind and willingness to generously serve the people, and if one is consistent and works [words indistinct] respecting the truth, and with willingness to talk until the best formula is found, a final solution will surely be reached. Reason, he said, always wins. Justice finally prevails, he declared. [passage omitted]

Colombia

Foreign Minister Holds UN Blameless for War

PA2001221591 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2019 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] Bogota, 20 Jan (EFE)—Colombian Foreign Minister Luis Fernando Jaramillo affirmed today that the UN cannot be held responsible for the war in the Persian Gulf because it did nothing but defend international law and order.

Jaramillo told Radio Cadena Nacional that the UN cannot be blamed for the war unleashed in the Persian Gulf and that its effort to stop the war cannot be described as a failure. He stated that the UN defended international law and order through its Security Council resolutions.

The entire world is responsible for this failure because the peace mediation effort prior to the war was carried out not only by the UN secretary general, but also by representatives of the United States, the Soviet Union, and the Arab nations.

Jaramillo said that there was no alternative but to establish international law and order through the available means. He said that Colombia, as member of the UN Security Council for a two-year period that concluded on 31 December 1990, backed the UN resolutions.

The Colombian foreign minister said that the foreign ministers of the Group of Rio are studying the possibility of calling for a meeting of presidents or of foreign ministers to analyze the Persian Gulf war. We have been in touch with the Latin American foreign ministers, especially with the Venezuelan foreign minister, coordinator of the Group of Rio, and the idea that it is important to meet if the situation gets worse, be it at the foreign ministers or at the presidential level, is gaining force.

Jaramillo cautioned, however, that the course this matter takes depends on the evaluations and analyses of the foreign ministries and on the decisions to be adopted.

The foreign minister explained that if further decisions have to be adopted, the Group of Rio represents the region at the UN Security Council, the organization in charge of watching out for international peace.

Jaramillo indicated that the Group of Rio is represented at the UN Security Council by the Ecuadoran delegation, which has a seat in that organization.

The Group of Rio, a regional cooperation organization, is comprised of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Minister Jaramillo criticized the chaos surrounding news of the war, with reports on casualties, downed planes, and launched missiles being constantly corrected. This is simply insane, Jaramillo announced.

Modest Oil Increase To Cover Shortage Possible

PA1901033991 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0125 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Bogota, 18 Jan (NOTIMEX)—In case of a prolonged war in the Persian Gulf, Colombia's oil supplies are guaranteed. This statement was made today by the Colombian Petroleum Enterprise [Ecopetrol].

Ecopetrol Director Andres Restrepo has said that Colombia could even contribute, although "in a very modest way," to cover an eventual oil-supply shortage in Latin American nations. He explained that Mexico and Venezuela would be the most significant ones to cover such a shortage.

The official said that Colombia is not speculating with oil prices and that the government clearly established this the moment Iraq invaded Kuwait.

Regarding gasoline imports (Colombia buys 20 percent of the gasoline it consumes from abroad), Restrepo said that contingency measures have been adopted to avoid domestic supply problems.

Restrepo stated that "the market is well supplied and oil from Iraq and Kuwait has been replaced by other oil producers." He said that "if it is surmised that the conflict will be resolved quickly" without the production installations of Saudi Arabia being damaged, there will be an oversupply and oil prices would drop.

Regarding the possibility of oil shortages affecting importing countries of the region, Restrepo said that most shortages could be covered by Venezuela and Mexico, which are the big producers, and by Colombia, which would have "a modest participation."

The Group of Rio's proposal that Mexico and Venezuela guarantee oil supplies to Latin America has "political motivations and would have political consequences, but the truth is that solidarity among the countries of the region is necessary," Restrepo concluded.

According to a study by the Hudson Institute, Venezuela and Mexico could place in the international market an additional 300,000 or 400,000 barrels of oil daily, which would prevent any oil shortage.

Oil Official: Country Not Affected by Gulf War

PA2201000591 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] The Gulf crisis apparently has not yet affected our economy despite the fact that the finance minister has cautioned us of the possibility of a new gasoline price increase if the war is prolonged. The manager of the Colombian Petroleum Enterprise [Ecopetrol], Andres Restrepo, has said that there is no reason for a gasoline price increase and that the government must maintain its promise of no more price readjustments this year.

The authorities of the economic sector perhaps see the war as something far away and for this reason have decided not to react to it. They are maintaining their social pact promise and have said that this year gasoline prices will not be increased more than already planned, that is, 22 percent, which is the inflation rate expected by the end of 1991.

Productive activities will not be changed and the goals set by the government at the end of last year will not be altered. There will be no war economy, not even in the oil sector—the source of world discord—because gulf bullets cannot be heard here and the price of oil is going down.

[Begin Restrepo recording] The government's message was clear. The government stated its independence from international prices and its decision to set prices it finds suitable for the Colombian economy. The message was clear and I think that for the time being there is no reason to change plans. [end recording]

Ecopetrol will not increase its production level. It will maintain last year's level of 440,000 barrels of oil daily, if the guerrillas permit this.

Mining Complex Attacked; 3 French Kidnapped

PA1901195091 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1843 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Bogota, 19 Jan (NOTIMEX)—The authorities reported today that a column of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) dynamited another mining complex in northeastern Antioquia Department.

The attack took place in a rural area of Segovia, about 300 km north of Bogota, where the guerrillas destroyed heavy machinery and kidnapped the wife of the manager of the company conducting exploration work.

The guerrillas also murdered an official of the company building a stretch of the oil pipeline and destroyed 37 vehicles, seven of them belonging to the Public Works Ministry.

This is the same guerrilla column that torched the Colombia oil pipeline yesterday and and blew up the camps and equipment of the Colombian-French Consortium (COI). Four foreign engineers were also kidnapped during that operation.

The police reported they do not know the whereabouts of French citizens Michel Michaud, Pierre Tarasuik, and Marcel Chambard, who were taken away by the guerrillas. Chambard is the inspector of the construction work.

The FARC also attacked the Pacific oil pipeline in the southern part of the country, seriously damaging the pipeline and delaying operations, according to an official source who requested that his name not be released.

A few hours ago, the guerrillas burned four buses near the town of Puerto Limon in southern Meta Department.

The FARC offensive is part of an operation that began on 9 December in reprisal for the military occupation of its general headquarters located about 220 km from Bogota.

Guerrillas Set Fire to Oil Well, Tank Truck

PA2201010991 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2244 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Bogota, 21 Jan (EFE)—Official sources have reported that Colombian guerrillas raided an oil exploration and drilling camp located in the rural part of southern Colombia, set fire to an oil well and a tank truck, and fled.

A military source said that the rebels of the National Guerrilla Coordinating Board subdued security personnel at the La Jagua well, 20 km north of Neiva (350 km south of Bogota), and entered the camp.

Once there, the guerrillas set fire to the well and a tank truck loaded with 6,000 barrels of crude.

Patrols from the 9th Army Brigade were sent to La Jagua from Neiva to try to catch the rebels, the military source added. [passage omitted]

Recent ELN, FARC Guerrilla Actions Reported

PA1901042491

[Editorial Report] Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 12 January reports that guerrillas belonging to the Army of National Liberation (ELN) recently destroyed three buses in the Bucaramanga area, killing one bus driver. Another report in the same newscast cites Defense Minister Oscar Botero Restrepo as saying that 17 members of the ELN and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) were captured by the authorities in recent actions. The station also cites a Defense Ministry communique as saying that FARC guerrillas sustained 28 casualties in recent clashes with the Armed Forces.

Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 13 January reports that a FARC column ambushed a 9th Brigade patrol in Huila Department "in the past few hours," killing two soldiers. The report states that the rebels seized two rifles and other ammunition.

Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 15 January reports from Florencia that a lieutenant was killed and an enlisted man was wounded in a FARC ambush in San Antonio de Getusha, Milan municipality, in Caqueta.

Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish at 1730 GMT on 15 January reports that the ELN burned three buses in Barrancabermeja "this morning" and that several policemen and a civilian were also killed "this morning" in Quipile, Cundinamarca, by armed individuals presumed to be members of the FARC.

Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish at 1730 GMT on 16 January reports that some 50 members of the ELN and the FARC stormed and set fire to a coal company in La Jagua, in Cesar Department, causing some 1 billion pesos in damage.

Mexico City NOTIMEX at 2147 GMT on 18 January reports that the Colombian Army killed three ELN guerrillas as they were attempting to blow up a bridge near the Barrancabermeja oil fields. The report adds that the authorities also seized 50 kg of dynamite, two grenades, and three rifles.

Attorney General Protests Extraditable's Release

PA2101213891 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Gonzalo Mejia Zanin is an Extraditable who resolved to adhere to decrees 2047 and 3030 of President Gaviria's administration on the surrender, confession, and nonextradition of nationals to the United States.

A Manizales judge has decided to release him, eliciting protests on the part of Attorney General Carlos Gustavo Arrieta. In view of the protests, the Extraditable announced that he will appear before the authorities whenever they request it of him. Here is the report by Arpidio Escobar.

[Begin recording] [Escobar] Last 26 November, Gonzalo Mejia Zanin became the first drug lord to accept the benefits decreed by the government for the Extraditables. He confessed to crimes committed in the country and in the United States before a court in Manizales. However, Judge Aristides Betancourt has released him, sentencing him to only 36 months of probation and a fine of 307,687 pesos. Now it turns out that the court does not exist.

[Manizales Judge Jose Orlay Diaz] By virtue of a government decision, that court no longer exists. However, the reason why it no longer exists is not known. After the 16th of January, it ceased to be in existence.

[Escobar] Where will the cases pending against Mejia Zanin now be heard?

[Orlay] They will be submitted to the public order court, specifically in the city of Bogota, by virtue of an appeal which we understand has been filed by the prosecuting attorney.

[Escobar] Dr. Betancourt, who ordered the release of Mejia Zanin, has disappeared and his replacement, Oscar Alzate, does not know anything because he was on vacation.

[Attorney General Arrieta] This can be interpreted as a mockery of the law, judging by the turn of events. We cannot allow this to occur. [end recording]

Ecuador

U.S. Consulate in Quito Attacked; No Casualties

PA1801190491 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1758 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Quito, 18 Jan (NOTIMEX)—The local police today reported that the U.S. Consulate in Quito has been attacked with incendiary bombs, which caused slight damage.

The incident occured last night when 20 individuals approached the building and hurled four burning devices against the diplomatic headquarters.

The police reported that the consulate suffered no major damage and that no arrests were made.

The embassies of the United States and France in Ecuador were attacked on 15 January with explosives, but no casualties resulted.

The police have reinforced security measures at all diplomatic offices in Ecuador and all petroleum facilities because of the peace demonstrations that are taking place and to neutralize possible terrorist attacks.

Peru

Embassies in Middle East To Remain Open

PY1901014891 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Raul Sanchez Sotomayor has said that Peru is not planning to close its embassies in the Persian Gulf area and that instructions have been sent to the embassies to give protection to Peruvian citizens asking for help. He noted that the problem caused by illegal Peruvian residents in Israel has been overcome and that they are already under Peruvian Embassy protection.

[Begin recording] [Sanchez] Our embassies in the Middle East are giving protection to our fellow countrymen. We are in permanent contact with those embassies.

[Unidentified reporter] What type of protection has been extended to Peruvians in the Middle East?

[Sanchez] The embassies have been instructed to support Peruvians who ask for protection, for example in the specific case of Israel, where a group of illegal Peruvian residents had not received gas masks from Israeli authorities, etc. This problem has already been solved because they have been provided with these devices.

[Reporter] How many Peruvians are there in the Middle East?

[Sanchez] More than 1,000.

[Reporter] What will happen with the embassies? Will they be closed?

[Sanchez] Look, in the Middle East we have embassies in Egypt, Morocco, Algeria, and Israel and concurrent ambassadors to Jordan, Iraq, Iran, and Tunisia. For the time being we have not decided to close any of our embassies in the Middle East.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, are the relatives of the diplomats returning home?

[Sanchez] No, our diplomats in those embassies, especially in Israel and Egypt, remain at their posts. Now more than ever they are in permanent contact with our fellow countrymen living in those countries.

[Reporter] There have been no requests to return to Peru?

[Sanchez] Thus far we have not received any request, but we are ready in case it is necessary to evacuate our fellow countrymen. We are in permanent contact with Peruvian authorities, especially with the Air Force, in case we need support for an evacuation.

[Reporter] Will Peruvians be brought home (?before the situation) worsens?

[Sanchez] If Peruvians (?get in touch with us) we will do it, we will give every....

[Reporter, interrupting] [Words indistinct] in Baghdad to bring Peruvians home?

[Sanchez] Well, it is not up to us to make the decision; they have to ask. We are ready to evacuate them whenever they ask.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Sanchez] Our instructions are very clear. We have told our embassies in the Middle East to extend all support to our fellow countrymen in that area. [end recording]

Shining Path Protests, Burns Bush in Effigy

PY2101220491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2104 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Lima, 21 Jan (EFE)—Peru's National Police reported today that alleged members of the Peruvian terrorist group Shining Path burned a cloth effigy representing U.S. President George Bush and a U.S. flag, while they demonstrated their support for Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

The police report adds that the incident, the second one to occur since the beginning of the Persian Gulf war, took place on 20 January outside the wholesale market in Santa Anita District, in the eastern sector of Lima, and the terrorists distributed pamphlets in which they expressed their support for Iraq and condemned the allied forces' attacks against that country.

Witnesses reported that at least 20 guerrillas fired their weapons into the air to frighten and force the market's clients to watch the burning of the effigy representing Bush and the flag.

This is the second time since 17 January that the terrorist group has carried out a protest and demonstrated its adhesion and solidarity with Iraq and Husayn. The Maoist-leaning Shining Path group began its armed struggle in 1980 and has caused more than 21,000 deaths and losses totaling some $19 billion, which is equivalent to 90 percent of Peru's foreign debt, according to a Senate committee evaluating the problem of political violence.

National Police Foil Anti-U.S. Terrorist Plan

PY1901180691 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1821 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Lima, 19 Jan (TELAM-ANSA)—Special antisubversive agents of the National Police frustrated a terrorist plan against U.S. enterprises when they arrested members of the pro-Castroist Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement who had fire bombs, dynamite charges, and ammunition.

The detainees, five men and two women, had counterfeit documents. They were arrested in a house located in the crowded Lima district of San Martin.

The police seized maps of the Peruvian capital with marks noting the exact locations of the U.S. Embassy and Consulate and of U.S. enterprises.

Uruguay

Dealer on Helicopter, Weapons Shipments to Iraq

PY2101233091 Montevideo LA HORA POPULAR in Spanish 12 Jan 91 p 4

[Report on part one of "exclusive" interview with Alfredo Felix Perez Arauzo, former arms dealer for the Santa Barbara Military Industries National Enterprise of Spain in Panama, by unidentified reporter; place and date not given]

[Text] In an exclusive interview with LA HORA POPULAR, Alfredo Felix Perez Arauzo, a former arms dealer for the Santa Barbara Military Industries National

Enterprise of Spain in Panama, said: "Uruguay is currently the country of transit to Iraq for Chilean helicopter gunships equipped with Fuel-Air Explosives [FAE], which is a destructive bomb of such explosive power that strategic circles have dubbed it the 'atomic bomb of the poor.'"

The FAE's are transported disguised as inoffensive spare parts, in the same way Condor missiles were taken to Iraq from Cordoba via Uruguay. The Condor missile is a lethal weapon capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

Perez Arauzo took part in a business involving Spanish weapons and several financial affairs as an arms dealer for the Armada Group of Egypt (Heliopolis, Cairo). He explained to LA HORA POPULAR the various steps and involvements in a shady deal he referred to as the "Condor syndrome."

The (Chilean) Cardoen arms manufacturing company, "which is connected with Italian and German arms manufacturing enterprises," is reportedly responsible for manufacturing helicopter gunships equipped with FAE's; these are currently taken to Iraq via Uruguay. The Cardoen company "exported cluster bombs to Iraq when this country was at war with Iran."

Asked about Uruguay's connection with this traffic, Perez Arauzo said our country "is undoubtedly a key piece in the jigsaw of the traffic of drugs, gold, and weapons, which are not registered as such, to other countries." While he was being interviewed by the newspaper, he said that Chilean weapons were secretly taken through Uruguay to the Persian Gulf.

Perez Arauzo said he became aware of the irregular sale of weapons when he was arms dealer for the Santa Barbara Military Industries National Enterprise of Spain and the Armada Group of Egypt. At that time he had access to "reserved geopolitically strategic" information and to several "shady weapons deals" that he described as "unscrupulous" and shady deals in most of the cases. He said: "Paraguay (he mentioned names that we have omitted because they refer to people who are holding high-level official posts and because we lack evidence) Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, Italy, Spain, the United States, and Egypt could be involved in this type of dirty weapons deal."

He said the Chilean helicopter gunships equipped with FAE's are going through Uruguay in the same way as "all unmounted parts for the Condor missile and other shipments that were sent from Patagonia as alleged spare parts."

The Condor missile "is a medium- and long-range missile, whose technology was provided by Egypt and a U.S. company, which sold it through a financial agent in Kuwait." "A series of spare parts that are being assembled in the mountains of Cordoba under strict secrecy" are being added to this technology. This business "has claimed the lives of several people, including British journalist J. Moley, who was reportedly murdered by the secret service of a Middle Eastern country."

Perez Arauzo also alluded to a European connection in the shady deals, which will be analyzed in the second part of this report. It should be noted that Perez Arauzo expressed his position on the Persian Gulf crisis, saying that the United Nations must "compel Mr. Bush to leave Panama and the Arabs' holy lands."

Details 'Uruguay Connection'

PY2201000491 Montevideo LA HORA POPULAR in Spanish 13 Jan 91 p 7

[Part two of "exclusive" interview with Alfredo Felix Perez Arauzo, former arms dealer for the Santa Barbara Military Industries National Enterprise of Spain in Panama, by unidentified reporter; place and date not given—first two paragraphs are LA HORA POPULAR introduction]

[Text] Stephano Casiraghi, husband to Caroline of Monaco, did not die by accident, but was murdered. His death is related to the activities of an Italian group with obscure interests that is involved in arms sales to Iraq. Uruguayan territory has been used in the group's dealings as a transshipment point, as can be gathered from declarations made by a former arms dealer in an exclusive interview with LA HORA POPULAR.

Alfredo Felix Perez Arauzo, a former representative of the Santa Barbara Military Industries National Enterprise of Spain and the Armada Group of Egypt in Paraguay, talked to LA HORA POPULAR for two hours, making startling revelations about the "Uruguay connection" in the "Condor syndrome." The first part of this interview was published in yesterday's issue of LA HORA POPULAR, where it was revealed that Montevideo has been a clandestine transshipment port for Chilean helicopter gunships equipped with FAE's [Fuel-Air Explosive] bound for Iraq. Earlier, camouflaged as spare parts, Condor missile components—manufactured in Cordoba, Argentina, with Egyptian-U.S. technology—were shipped through Montevideo.

[Reporter] Is the death of Caroline of Monaco's husband in an accident related to these denunciations of secret deals involving Latin America, Europe, and the Middle East?

[Arauzo] Obscure groups operating in international spheres have penetrated Latin America. One of them is the Italian group that manipulated the World Soccer Cup in 1990. One should ask why, after so many years, Egypt participated in this world event and why the Egyptian team played its games in Palermo.

[Reporter] What exactly is the connection between the organizers of the World Soccer Cup, weapons, and Egypt's participation in that event?

[Arauzo] They are all connected because the Egyptian group helped develop the Condor missile. This is why Egypt played in Palermo and Argentina played in Turin.

[Reporter] What does Palermo have to do with it?

[Arauzo] One of the most important families on a global level resides in Palermo...

[Reporter] Mafia?

[Arauzo] I say families. Do not forget that there are three powerful families in Italy: the one in the north, the Palermo family, and the Vatican family, which is one of the most powerful transnational groups.

[Reporter] Let us go back to the "Uruguay connection," arms sales, and the Persian Gulf conflict.

[Arauzo] All wars involve big deals, but particularly the Iraq war, which has meant big deals for weapons industries that were idle. The attempt to dominate the Middle East will bring an end to U.S. dominance in the world. In fact, Mr. Bush has no right to occupy the Arabs' holy sites, nor does he have the right to demand anything from Iraq after what he did to Panama. Bush should not endanger the world's ecosystem by manipulating the radioactive missiles of submarines.

[Reporter] Besides the Condor missile and the Chilean helicopter in the "Uruguay connection," has there been any other clandestine sale of weapons to Iraq?

[Arauzo] Yes, combat vehicles, missile launchers, and other materiel have been sold, but this is reserved information that I cannot disclose.

[Reporter] The first question about the death of Stephano Casiraghi was not answered...

[Arauzo] Caroline's husband did not die accidentally, but in an accident set up by one of the obscure Italian groups.

Iran Plans To Open Embassy in Montevideo

PY2101181891 Montevideo LA HORA POPULAR in Spanish 12 Jan 91 p 5

[Text] It was confirmed today that Iran will soon open a diplomatic mission in Uruguay.

The issue was analyzed during a meeting between an Iranian delegation and Uruguay's Foreign Minister Hector Gross Espiell on 7 January.

Iran currently has a concurrent ambassador to Uruguay based in Buenos Aires.

In recent years the Iranian Government increased its trade with the country, and during 1990 it purchased $140 million in local products, particularly rice, meat, and butter.

Iranian diplomat Mohamed Pourmohammadi [name as published] explained that his government's decision is part of an effort to broaden with all countries in the world.

Venezuela

President Perez Still Seeking End to Gulf War

PA1901214591 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1939 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Caracas, 19 Jan (EFE)—Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez said today that the Persian Gulf war has led to the conclusion that the UN must be strengthened so that all its resolutions will be complied with and respected.

Perez said that he is still working on a solution to the problem, because we are friends of all the countries involved in the conflict.

However, he did not comment on the degree of responsibility for the outbreak of hostilities falling on U.S. President George Bush and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. He recalled that Venezuela supports the UN decisions.

Perez added that, in view of the impossibility of ending the war, we must try to make it as brief as possible, so that there will be less destruction and tragedy.

The Latin American Foundation for Human Rights and Social Development (Fundalatin) based in Caracas, asked the Venezuelan Government to stop oil sales to the nations in the conflict.

Fundalatin, which in 1987 won the UN Messenger of Peace Award, said that oil should be an instrument of life and peace, not war.

Fundalatin's request was backed by representatives of religious institutions, opposition politicians, retired military officers, and labor unions.

The Catholic Church in Venezuela also commented on the Middle East conflict. Its top leader, Cardinal Jose Ali Lebrun, said that war can never be justified, because it is immoral.

Lebrun said that the Catholic morality cannot accept war. He said that we should never resort to evil to do good.

Embassy in Baghdad Hit by Allied Forces Bomb

PA2001131891 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1004 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Amman, 20 Jan (EFE)—The Venezuelan Embassy in Baghdad was hit by an allied air-launched bomb, but there were no casualties, a Western diplomatic source today told EFE in Amman.

Apparently, the embassy telex room suffered the most damage and the residence has not been affected.

The damage occurred in the early morning hours of 17 January during the first attack by the allied aviation; the attack lasted three hours and was very intense. All sources reported that no civilians have been hurt.

So far, it is known that the bombs hit the presidential palace, the defense ministry, the airport, three telecommunications building, one refinery in southern Baghdad, and the headquarters of the Ba'th Party.

Venezuelan Ambassador in Baghdad, Carlos Alberto Taylhardad, who arrived in Iraq on 14 January, received orders from Caracas on 15 January to return immediately to his country.

The diplomat, who barely had time to announce his arrival and plans to present his diplomatic credentials to the Iraqi authorities, told EFE that he left Baghdad on 16 January.

Embassy secretary Raul Gonzalez left Iraq with Taylhardad on the last commercial flight out of Baghdad, and a Venezuelan employee—a secretary—was left in charge of the legation.

The previous Venezuelan ambassador, Rafael Monsalve, left Baghdad on 11 January, at the end of his tour in Iraq. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Diplomat Allegedly Charged With Terrorism

PA1901004891 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0017 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Caracas, 18 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Military intelligence authorities arrested an Iraqi Embassy official this afternoon for alleged links to international terrorist organizations.

Radio reports citing authorities of the Military Intelligence Directorate, DIM, maintain that the Iraqi official, whose name was not given, is a secretary and translator at the Iraqi Embassy.

Neither the embassy nor the DIM have confirmed the report.

Iraqis Deny Diplomat's Arrest

PA1901134591 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0520 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Caracas, 18 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Iraqi Consul Hassan Assiz denied tonight that [words indistinct] arrested by the Venezuelan military intelligence forms part of the Iraqi diplomatic mission.

Interviewed by NOTIMEX, Assiz said the man under arrest, (Shaker El Khelb), has Venezuelan citizenship and works as a translator at the Iraqi Embassy in Caracas. Assiz said he has not heard from the man in two days.

Assiz said he does not know if (Shaker El Khelb) was arrested by the Military Intelligence Directorate (DIM), as radio reports, citing intelligence authorities, indicated this afternoon.

According to the sources, (El Khelb) is reportedly linked to international terrorist organizations and allegedly has ties with "Carlos," a well-known internationalist terrorist who is Venezuelan.

According to the same sources, (El Khelb) is under heavy questioning from DIM.

Iraqi Ambassador Presented Letter for Husayn

PA2001024991 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0206 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] Caracas, 19 Jan (EFE)—Majid al-Samarrat, Iraqi ambassador to Venezuela, said today that the Iraqi authorities have many prisoners who will appear on Baghdad television.

The diplomat was called today to Miraflores Palace, headquarters of the Venezuelan Government, where President Carlos Andres Perez gave him a letter for his Iraqi counterpart, Saddam Husayn, the contents of which were not revealed.

On his way out, Al-Samarrat said that the war reports broadcast by Western media are exaggerated and do not correspond to the truth.

The official added that the capital and other zones of his country are still being bombarded, including populated areas in Baghdad, and he said that the antiaircraft defenses have shot down 142 airplanes thus far.

He also confirmed the launching of missiles against Israel, adding that these actions against Tel Aviv will continue until Palestine is free.

Molotov Cocktail Thrown at Mormon Church

PA1801145891 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1414 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Barquisimeto (Venezuela), 18 Jan (EFE)—The Venezuelan police today EFE today that a molotov cocktail exploded at dawn in front of a Mormon church in downtown Barquisimeto, 400 km west of Caracas.

The police added that the explosive device was hurled at the church door and caused structural damage, but no casualties.

Captain Ali Gomez, a spokesman for the Internationalist Brigade [not further identified], called EFE at dawn to say that the attack was aimed at a U.S. concern in Venezuela in retaliation for U.S. actions against Iraq.

The spokesman added that the Mormons serve as U.S. spies in Venezuela and that their church will be the target of other attacks.

The group that claimed responsibility for this attack is unknown in Venezuela, where all security measures have been tightened at oil facilities in Maracaibo, in northwestern Venezuela.